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LD1011143988 [Editorial Report]

Reaction to Bush Victory

Among Arab reaction to George Bush's victory in the U.S. presidential election, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent Bush a cable of congratulations expressing confidence that the issue of peace in the Middle East will enjoy "priority status" during his term of office, according to MENA. The Egyptian foreign minister viewed Bush's victory as "very reassuring," MENA noted.

Jordan's King Husayn congratulated Bush in a cable cited by Amman television, expressing hope the incoming administration will show more interest in regional issues to consolidate peace throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East.

A congratulations cable from the Kuwaiti amir urged the new U.S. Administration to give priority to the Palestinian cause, KUNA reported.

Riyadh radio broadcast a congratulations cable from Saudi King Fahd, who stressed the "firm relations" between Saudi Arabia and the United States, noting the desire of both countries for "justice, peace, and stability" in the Middle East.

In Israel, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent Bush a cable of congratulations and expressed the view that U.S.-Israeli relations will not change under the Bush administration, Jerusalem radio reported.

The Israeli ambassador to the United States told IDF radio he believes the new secretary of state, James Baker, will follow his predecessor's policy, "but very cautiously and slowly in the beginning."

Among other reaction, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that U.S. policy toward Iran remains "hostile," IRNA noted.

Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan congratulated Bush in a message that lauded the new president's "outstanding" leadership qualities and expressed confidence that U.S.-Pakistani ties will be strengthened during his presidency, Islamabad radio reported.

Iran

UK Relations—A Foreign Ministry statement carried by Tehran radio 10 November announced that Iran and Great Britain have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations as soon as possible, based on equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's affairs.

The radio added that Iranian and British representatives in Vienna have signed a memorandum of understanding which stipulates that Britain will send a charge d'affaires to Tehran within 1 month and that the two sides will exchange ambassadors within the next 6 months. The agreement was confirmed by the British Foreign Office in a statement cited by London PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Geneva Talks—Iran accepts the ICRC's proposal that the full repatriation of sick and wounded POW's should begin on 20 November, Foreign Minister Velayati stated in remarks reported by IRNA.

However, Velayati said the peace talks are still blocked by Iraq's refusal to accept the UN secretary general's four-point plan, and he again called on the UN Security Council to support the secretary general's efforts to break the deadlock.

An IRNA commentary claimed that Iraq has eaten "humble pie" in agreeing to the exchange of sick and disabled POW's.

Afghanistan

The Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires in Kabul to protest the U.S. Administration's decision to hold talks with Burhanuddin Rabbani, a leader of the Afghan "armed extremist groups," Kabul radio reported. The Afghan side viewed the reception of Rabbani in Washington as "irresponsible" and a violation of the Geneva Accords.

On the military situation, Islamabad radio reported that the mujahidin have advanced to within 200 meters of the "security belt" around Qandahar and have captured a strategic militia headquarters south of the city, overlooking the highway to Herat.

Lebanon

General Antoine Lahd's condition has stabilized and he should make a full recovery within several weeks, Jerusalem radio reported. A South Lebanese Army (SLA) source cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon confirmed that the SLA commander's condition is quickly improving and the radio added that Gen Lahd is expected to regain consciousness soon. Beirut radio had earlier cited rumors that Lahd is dead.

In other developments, KUNA reported that warring Palestinian and Amal Movement gunmen reached an "overall cease-fire" in the Sidon area.

The Lebanese Front denounced the appointment of a new Army commander by the West Beirut authorities as "false" and "lacking any legal or legitimate factors," the Voice of Lebanon noted. The Lebanese Forces also condemned the appointment in a statement reported by Radio Free Lebanon.

Israel

Territories—A 3-year-old boy was killed and 10 other local residents were wounded by IDF gunfire during clashes in the Gaza Strip 9 November, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. An IDF spokesman said he is examining the circumstances of the boy's death, the paper noted.

NRP Threat—The National Relgious Party (NRP) threatened to stop all negotiations with the Likud if the latter has signed an agreement with SHAS, Jerusalem radio reported.

The NRP said a separate Likud deal with SHAS would contradict Likud's pledge to notify other potential coalition partners before concluding any such agreements.

Algeria

The new government, announced in a presidential press release carried by APS, contains many new ministers and retains only four men in the cabinet positions they previously occupied.

Posts given to newcomers include the Ministries of Justice, Education, Higher Education, and Agriculture. However, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Interior are allocated to Boualem Bessaih, Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, and Boubaker Belkaid, all members of the outgoing government. El Hadi Khediri, the former interior minister, is now minister of transportation.

The new cabinet list does not mention the post of defense minister, which is held by the president himself.

In another development, radio journalists held a meeting in which they called for the establishment of an independent journalists union, free from any political or ideological tendencies, Algiers radio reported. Discussion at the meeting was held in an atmosphere of "clarity, frankness, and democracy," focusing on press freedom and issues hampering radio work.

Sudan

UAE Embassy Incident—The UAE praised Sudan's handling of an incident in which an armed person broke into the UAE Embassy in Khartoum and held the ambassador hostage for over 4 hours, WAKH reported. The ambassador and other hostages were freed when Sudanese commandos stormed the building and captured the intruder.

According to MENA, the intruder had demanded the release of political detainees in the UAE amd had threatened to blow up the embassy.

Fighting in South—A military statement carried by Omdurman National Unity radio asserted that government troops based at Al-Nasir garrison killed 200 rebels in a recent attack on the SPLA.

Libya

Ten Italians each received jail sentences of 2 and ½ years for illegal fishing in Libyan territorial waters, JANA reported. The Italians were also fined and their boats were confiscated.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Calls Bush Election 'Positive Event'

JN1011063188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Interview With Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi by radio correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus on 9 November carried within the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] [Faris] Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, a new president of the United States was elected today. What is your opinion on the results of these elections and what do you expect from these results with regard to the Arab nation?

[Klibi] The election of Mr Bush is considered a positive event. The coming president of the United States will have an experience [words indistinct]. He is well acquainted with all the important issues, including the Middle East issues. We hope his presidency will open with an important, maybe a decisive, stage with regard to the Middle East issues, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestine question in particular as it is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr Bush is well acquainted with this issue and therefore he can adopt the stands that are in agreement with international legitimacy and (?principles) of American philosophy in general.

[Faris] Your Excellency the Secretary General, do you expect the new U.S. Administration to embark on a new initiative with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Klibi] [Words indistinct] I cannot say we expect but we hope. We suggest to the new president to begin his term by opening the file on the Middle East, that is, to embark on an initiative. The initiative here is clear—it aims at protecting the peace and security of all U.S. friends.

[Faris] My last question, Your Excellency the Secretary General, is the following: You are now exerting good offices to resolve the Lebanese crisis. In light of the results of the U.S. elections, do you expect something tangible from the Americans with regard to the current Lebanese crisis?

[Klibi] [Passage indistinct] We welcome any help from the friendly countries—and the United States is a friendly country to the Lebanese people. Any such help will be a positive contribution to the Arab and Lebanese efforts.

Libya, Egypt To Hold Direct Talks 'Soon'

JN0911153188 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Nov 88 p 20

[Shakir al-Jawhari dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Well informed Arab sources expect a direct Libyan-Egyptian meeting to be held soon to settle all matters between the two countries. These sources have revealed to AL-SIYASAH that the halt of media campaigns between Egypt and Libya since the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birthday has been arranged following efforts exerted by Yasir 'Arafat during three visits he made within short intervals to Tripoli, the latest of which was on 18 October. After this visit he headed to Tunis and then Cairo and was accompanied by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to meet the Jordanian king in Al-'Aqabah.

The same sources said President Mubarak has accepted the PLO's mediation with respect to the Palestinian people's uprising. Meanwhile, other Arab mediations were being made, particularly by Tunisia, the YAR, and Sudan.

The agreement reached between Tripoli and Cairo, through the PLO, requires both sides to halt their media campaigns and prevent the media organs of either side from publishing reports originating from a third party that may be offensive to the other side. The sources added this halt will continue until the end of the proceedings of the PNC, scheduled to be held in Algiers 12-15 November as a sign of goodwill and to prove adherence to the agreement.

If both sides adhere to the agreement, direct meetings between them will take place through bilateral committees or a general joint committee that will discuss relations between the two countries in the area of information to consolidate the halt in media campaigns, in transportation to arrange for the resumption of air traffic between the two countries, in labor to discuss the unresolved problems of Egyptian workers in Libya, and in security. Both sides agreed to hold these meetings with the presence of PLO representatives.

The sources do not expect a resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the current stage because the issue requires a lot of time to reach this step.

The sources affirmed that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was responsive to the Palestinian efforts and informed 'Arafat of his readiness to go a long way in the resumption of relations with Cairo if President Mubarak announces he is ready to work to abrogate the Camp David accords.

In the past, Al-Qadhdhafi set the abrogation of these accords as a condition for resuming relations. AL-SIYASAH's sources pointed out there has been a remarkable change in the way in which Tripoli conducts foreign

policy. In this regard, the sources revealed that 'Arafat informed Al-Qadhdhafi in advance of the plan to hold the Al-'Aqabah summit and that Al-Qadhdhafi informed him that he approves any step taken by the PLO so long as it does not contradict the requirements for the continuation of the Palestinian people's uprising.

In this regard, the sources revealed that Libya regularly pays the PLO $5 million per month to support the uprising retroactive to the date the uprising began, 8 December 1987.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: PNC To Consider 4 Options for Future

NC0911135588 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, will consider four options on the future of the Palestinian independence movement when it meets in Algiers next week, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here Wednesday. He described the four options, to be submitted by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the following:

—a declaration of independence,

—the formation of a provisional government,

—both a declaration of independence and a provisional government,

-a transitional period under which the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be placed under United Nations mandate.

The 448-member PNC is to open a special session in Algiers on Saturday devoted to the 11-month-old Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. 'Arafat refused to make clear which of these options he would recommend for adoption, nor on what basis a declaration of independence would be made. He likewise declined to disclose the boundaries of the proposed Palestinian state.

The PLO chief said he remained optimistic about chances for peace in the Middle East, despite the probable assumption in Israel of the hard line, right wing Likud bloc of outgoing Premier Yitzhaq Shamir.

"We are very close (to a solution)," Mr. 'Arafat noted, but he added that "we are in the last 15 minutes of the day," with the final stretch expected to be "fierce and difficult."

Qaddumi Says PLO To Request Recognition, Aid

OW0911122988 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) will soon move to ask Japan for diplomatic recognition and financial aid if it formally declares statehood at its congress in Algiers, which is set to begin Saturday, a senior PLO official told journalists and ambassadors Wednesday.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and generally regarded as the No. 2 man in the PLO power structure, strongly indicated that the PLO will declare an independent state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip when the 453-member Palestinian National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament-in-exile, holds its three-day session in the Algerian capital. "When we have a state we will ask our friends in Japan to offer us assistance and aid," Qaddumi said, adding that "we are sure our friends will assist us."

He said that the PNC may, however, decide against complete independence at this time in favor of other options on the conference agenda such as a U.N.-administered state or a confederation with neighboring Jordan. He indicated that a confederation with Jordan may still follow upon declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Outlining the political structure of the proposed state, Qaddumi said it would be a "peace-loving" country with its own army, a parliament with multiple political parties, and constitutional provisions which accord democratic freedoms to its citizens. He also said the state would be secular, with equal rights accorded to Muslims, Jews, Christians, and those of other religious faiths.

Qaddumi said that during meetings earlier this week with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno he secured Japan's commitment to continue helping the Palestinian people achieve freedom from occupation and self-determination. Qaddumi said he was not asked by Japanese leaders to "recognize" Israel's right to exist within secure borders, but Foreign Ministry officials later disputed the statement. They said, that Uno told Qaddumi "very clearly" that Japan's "basic and repeated position" is that the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist is one of the keys to a Middle East settlement.

Japan also holds that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories and recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the officials said. The PLO leader indicated his understanding of the Japanese Government's position to be that "all states in the region should live within secure and recognized borders."

"Its different from asking us to recognize or not to recognize (Israel)," he said. Qaddumi charged that Palestinians are being asked to recognize the right for a belligerent party to exist at the same time that that party is "oppressing and killing" Palestinians.

Qaddumi, who is known as PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "right-hand man," called on Israel to take part in a U.N.-proposed international peace conference without any such preconditions. "This (setting of preconditions) is not negotiation, this is surrender," he stated. Qaddumi said that in the absence of an option to negotiate with Israel, the PLO will proceed with its "armed struggle" against Israeli military targets and the 10-month uprising in the occupied territories will likewise continue unabated.

"Perhaps hundreds of thousands of Palestinians will be killed, but finally our land will be regained," he declared. Qaddumi said that until a Palestinian state is actually declared by the PNC, he felt it premature to request diplomatic recognition or financial aid from Japan.

Qaddumi's appearance at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan was attended by the ambassadors of Algeria, Hungary, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Netherlands, Poland, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Qaddumi, who previously visited Japan in 1976, arrived Sunday for a five-day visit at the invitation of the suprapartisan Parliamentarians' League for Japan-Palestine Friendship.

'Arafat Congratulates Gorbachev on Anniversary

LD0811230188 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] congratulated Comrade President Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed in his congratulatory message he sent to Comrade Gorbachev the determination of our Palestinian people to persevere in consolidating and widening the comradely and solidarity ties between the Palestinian revolution and the October revolution, between the PLO and the friendly USSR Government, and between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples for the benefit of their development, progress, peace, and justice on the path to achieving international peace.

AL-ANBA' Interviews DFLP's Hawatimah

JN0911195388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p 29

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] The Palestine question is currently undergoing extremely rapid, important developments—from the success of the Likud and the extremist right wing led by Yitzhaq Shamir in Israel, to the continuous meetings of the Palestinian leaderships in preparation for the extraordinary PNC session in a week. Nobody denies that the Likud's success will influence not only the PNC deliberations but also the current preparations prior to its convocation. The equation has changed because leaning to the right in Israel has changed facts and will consequently change the Palestinian method of dealing with events.

In his interview here, Nayif Hawatimah provides further details about the proposed Palestinian options regarding the independence document, the political statement, and the provisional government in whose makeup he "now" does not object to the participation of personalities from inside and outside the occupied territories. The DFLP secretary general talks about other proposals and solutions that can be considered new in Palestinian thinking. Following are the details of the dialogue:

[Al-Barqawi] Will the Palestinian cause be helped internationally by Israel's leaning to the right and by the Palestinian peace option? And does this mean Western Europe and world Jewry will have to come to terms with with a new reality?

[Hawatimah] The people of the Zionist state voted for the Zionist expansionist option by favoring the Likud bloc. This option is antagonistic to peace and pursues a policy of grabbing land, settlement, and bloody repression of the Palestinian uprising. On the other hand, the Palestinian people have opted for a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and the Mideast problem. This approach has been manifest since the PLO approved its June 1974 interim national program that led to the famous Rabat summit resolutions in November of the same year. Subsequently, the PLO has shouldered its way to a good many world and regional organizations, including the United Nations, where it sits with observer status.

The PLO's platform calls for a fair, just settlement while at the same time pursuing armed struggle. Any settlement must provide for the Palestinian people's repatriation, self-determination for all of the Palestinians both in the occupied land and in the diaspora, and a Palestinian state coupled with international guarantees. It is the Palestinian people that are enduring homelessness, the yoke of occupation, and being targeted daily by Israeli air raids. On the other hand, Israel, with the most powerful army in the Middle East at its disposal, has inflicted heavy defeats on Arab armies and has been expanding at the expense of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

We have continued this march. However, a large portion of world public opinion, particularly in Western Europe, the United States, and Jewish religious minorities in the world—I do not agree with those who say Jewish minorities, because they have an identity, whether American, Netherlands, French, British, or others—was saying that the Palestinian people's armed and political resistance

against occupation is a process exported from the outside to the inside, particularly from the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and not from inside the occupied territories.

The great popular uprising, which represents the broadest peaceful democratic process known to Third World peoples from War World II until now, came to make the Palestinian cause enter, once again, every single home in this world. Luckily, modern technology benefited a small, oppressed people, whose lands are occupied and who live under the yoke of occupation with all of its fascism and tyranny. Cameras have moved the uprising to every single home in this world. Hence, world public opinion has learned that the uprising against occupation originates from inside [Palestine].

There are 1 million people, all the Palestinian people inside—workers, merchants, women, youths, and children. The world saw a comprehensive, unarmed popular revolt against a war machine armed with modern technology. The world has also seen that the Palestinian people are saying no to occupation; no to the occupation troops; and no to leaving the cities, villages, and camps.

The uprising urges the UN and the international community, not in the least Western Europe, the United States, and Jewish minorities around the world, to be conscientious enough to see that UN forces take charge of the occupied Palestinian land, oversee the implementation of the 4th Geneva Convention, and abrogate the British law that has been in force there since 1945.

The UN forces will be called upon to put an end to all Zionist practices of oppression and terrorism and oversee new municipal elections, thus giving the Palestinian people the chance to demonstrate that the activists of the uprising are the true voice of the Palestinian people and that they are an integral part of the PLO. The road will then be cleared for a political settlement and an independent state.

We think the uprising has paved the way for world public opinion to bring pressure to bear on Western European nations, the United States, and Jewish minorities around the world to respond to the demands of the uprising, which speaks for all the Palestinian people.

[Al-Barqawi] In your opinion, which are the sides that are invited to the international conference? Is Israel among them?

[Hawatimah] On 12 October the UN general secretary submitted to the UN General Assembly his report about his efforts regarding the preparatory committee for the international conference. This report clearly indicated that the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council are the first of the invited sides. The report pointed out that the United States rejects the preparatory committee and the international conference formula.

The report also determined the sides to the Middle East conflict. It pointed out that Jordan, Syria, the PLO, Lebanon, and Egypt have responded to this call. However, Israel, which is invited to this conference table, has rejected and insisted on bilateral negotiations and direct solutions because the balance of power is in its favor and it can impose capitulationist solutions, as it did with the Camp David accords.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you think that given the Likud's good showing in Israel's recent general elections, preparations for the PNC session will be affected?

[Hawatimah] I just hope all of us will be reasonable and realistic. Any illusions anyone harbored on the eve of election day must now have been debunked. There were those who bet on Shim'on Peres opting for the international conference, and now this illusory option has been eliminated. I hope, therefore, Palestinian dialogues will be conducted in a more rational, realistic fashion, making sure that our national unity is maintained.

We have on our agenda three key topics:

—The first one concerns the political declaration expected to be issued by the PNC.

—The second one concerns the declaration proclaiming an independent Palestinian state.

—The third one concerns the provisional government of this state.

This will contribute to efforts aimed at holding an international conference to secure a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In this regard, let us begin with what has been accomplished. The declaration document has made a large stride forward and there is a wide scope of agreement which we hope will continue without coming under influences and pressures by America, the West European countries, and Egypt with the aim of going back on the independence declaration document.

Shultz said on 19 September that his country rejects this unilateral step. He added the Palestinians are entitled to raise the issue of the right to self-determination at the international conference, but if this would be the password, the United States would then be against the principle of the right to self-determination at the international conference.

The PLO leadership is being exposed to many pressures so it will not proclaim an independent Palestinian state. But at the same time we have made a great progress on preparing the document and I hope we will remain steadfast because it is the great ripe fruit of the popular uprising. This state, if proclaimed, can secure the recognition of many and can occupy a seat in the United Nations as an observer member like Switzerland and the

two Koreas. This needs only half of the members of the General Assembly plus one and does not require the procedures of the Security Council. If the declaration of the independent Palestinian state is delayed and the uprising calms down for a short period, God forbid, any subsequent declaration of the state will not win the required Arab and international recognition.

This is the right time to wrest these recognitions. But we have to distinquish between the declaration of the independent Palestinian state and the declaration of the principles of political independence and sovereignty on the land. The latter mean no more than a paper whose ink will dry up within a few days because it has no value in terms of effective politics in today's world, while the declaration of an independent Palestinian state will deepen the complete commitment of our people to establishing the institutions of this state on the land and also deepen the Arab and international commitments that the Palestinian people have begun to declare with their state as the Algerian people did in 1958, when the FLN declared the independent Algerian State.

At the time, France occupied Algeria with half a million French soldiers, and more than 2 million settlers lived in Algeria. Moreover, the French Constitution considered Algeria part of France.

This is the first issue. The second is the provisional government. We have made great progress on this issue. We in the DFLP call for the formation of this government as soon as the PNC holds its extraordinary session. If we cannot achieve that on the basis of the common national denominator because we are unionists and seek a unified Palestinian position, we have to agree on the minimum limitations of the provisional government, namely, its political and organizational bases, and to appoint ministers of state or deputy prime ministers from people from the inside, in addition to the ministers who will practice their full political and diplomatic duties—that is, to be given a free hand.

One clear example of this policy is the forming of the Algerian Government in September 1958, when they appointed a number of their leaders who were in French prisons as ministers of state in their provisional government.

The provisional Palestinian government that could be formed will be in a position of responsibility before the PLO's institutions, which are the PNC, the Central Council, and the Executive Committee. If we do not agree on declaring it after the next PNC session, then its declaration and formation could be based on these grounds and on the grounds that we agree in principle that the PLO Executive Committee will carry out the duties of the Palestinian state's new born provisional government, which calls on the nations of the world to support it to end the occupation of the Palestinian state's territories.

The third axis of our discussions is the political communique, which contains the factual political and national decisions so we can link the fruitful practical political decisions supporting the uprising, contributing to its development, and entrenching Arab, regional, and international commitments—that is, declaring the independent Palestinian state, which will have a direct effect in the short term, and the provisional government, either by declaring it on the five mentioned bases or agreeing on its bases and leaving its declaration up to a joint operation between the Central Council and the Executive Committee, on condition that the latter will shoulder the responsibilities of the provisional government until the latter is formed.

Such a step will place the United States and enemy states in a tight corner facing a series of international recognitions and the Palestinian state's achieving a seat in the UN General Assembly, the Arab League, and regional and nonaligned organizations. They have to deeply contemplate the necessity of finding a way to peace which ensures the priorities of the Palestinian people's rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination without repressive acts.

And here we maintain a link between these political and practical steps on the one hand and realistic political decisions on the other—the decisions that must reiterate anew that the PLO, since it drew up its program [word illegible] in 1974, has been actually struggling to attain peace based on justice and not the peace attainable through the "theorizations" and statements regrettably made by a number of flexible Palestinian figures.

In this regard, I would like to say clearly that we have to be honest with our people and also the all-encompassing international will regarding the need to draft our interlinked decisions in the political statement, the independence declaration of the independent Palestinian state, and also the declaration of a provisional government in accordance with international legitimacy. This means that we have to produce a blend, mixing the Palestinian people's rights as recognized by the United Nations with the international community's will as represented at the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

This talk of mine is prompted by what was contained in a report submitted by the UN secretary general on 12 October, as there are some parties seeking to push things in the Palestinian arena toward the adoption of resolutions the ceiling of which would be the EEC Venice summit declaration of 1980; namely UN Security Council Resolution 242 in addition to the right to self-determination. This is the ceiling that was specified and reached when it became impossible for the Camp David accords to expand and include other Arab states.

We would like to remind all that we are living in the era of the uprising, which calls on the United Nations in the statements issued by its unified leadership to realize the

Palestinian people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a state within the framework of an international conference envisaged to provide guarantees regarding this process. Frankly, I want to tell those who seek to make the Venice declaration their ceiling that this is a very dangerous issue, as such a ceiling does not rise to the level of the accomplishments scored by the Palestinian people in their struggle to bring about the adoption of other Arab, regional, and international resolutions.

What would be the position of other parties when we ourselves demand less than what we have actually attained? Besides, the Venice declaration and its ceiling, which calls for the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242 as well as the right to self-determination, clearly means that the doors will remain open for less than an independent state and also for a revival of the Jordanian option. The right to self-determination is a slogan that can have different interpretations and explanations. It might lead to an independent state, a federal state comprising Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, or merely Jordan and Palestine, a confederation, or self-rule.

This means that the right to self-determination is governed by a configuration of the current balances of power. It also means that the fate of the referendum will be predetermined before it is held, as it would be held in accordance with the results of the international conference, as long as we continue to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 in addition to the right to self-determination as the ceiling of our demands.

Moreover, the adoption of such a resolution will not develop the West European public opinion, as the EEC states have already recognized our rights. The stands taken by other West European states will not be affected by the adoption of such a resolution. This happens at a time when we notice a change in the Italian Government's stand toward an acceptance of an independent state for the Palestinian people—a change brought about by the uprising and its great magic.

Even the French stand is experiencing a tilt toward that direction as represented by the speech delivered by Mitterrand in which he said that the Palestinian people must have a homeland. Our information indicates that the French perception of the right to self-determination rises to the level of accepting the right to establish an independent Palestinian state, as confirmed during talks held between French officials and officials of states friendly to the Palestinian people.

Therefore, we should not work to deprive ourselves of the benefits of these developments within the ranks of European public opinion. The European stand as regards the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state has been recognized by the United Nations.

Furthermore, if we actually seek to turn the pressure being exerted by the West European public opinion—the pressure being exerted by the West European people and governments—into pressure applied on U.S. public opinion and the U.S. Administration, we must work to produce resolutions that fall in harmony with the UN resolutions, which stipulate that the territory of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem is occupied by Israel.

As for Resolution No 242, it concerns nobody other than the Arab states and Israel, as it deals with our cause as an issue of refugees rather than one of national and political rights. Jordan, Syria, and Egypt accepted the resolution. Consequently, we have to merge the UN resolutions that recognize Palestinian national rights with the international community's will and consider the result as a basis for convening the international conference to help attain a comprehensive and just solution.

[Al-Barqawi] Through your answers, I notice the DFLP has somewhat changed its stand on the formation of a provisional government. You used to call for forming it from only the factions which make up the PLO.

[Hawatimah] I do not believe that this constitutes a change. It may be a comprehensive presentation of our stand, given that we are only several days away from the uprising session. We are advocates of a provisional government that will stem from the PNC and that will be formed from the factions within the PLO and the figures who are committed to it. We did not find it necessary to add or clarify that it is imperative that these figures should be from the occupied territories and from the diaspora because we believe in the unity of the people, whether they are in the occupied homeland or outside it. The Unified National Leadership of the uprising constantly states in its statements and calls that it is the historic extension of the PLO factions.

Therefore, our provisional government should represent all the people on condition these figures are committed to the PLO's program, policy line, and the extraordinary PNC session resolutions. This clearly means that we differentiate between these figures. Some of these figures whom we consider as being outside the PLO framework claim they are committed to the PLO. However, their actual stands have explicitly revealed how far they are from the PLO's course. Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah and their partners are such examples.

[Al-Barqawi] Will the document on the independent Palestinian state that you will announce during the convocation of the PNC session mention anything about the borders of this state?

[Hawatimah] We cannot define the borders of the Palestinian state. This is a subject that will be discussed within the framework of an international conference. The proclamation of the state is based on a natural and historical

right and stems from UN Resolution No 181 of 1947 which granted the Palestinian people the right to establish their independent Palestinian state on their soil.

[Al-Barqawi] Resolution No 181 also stipulates the establishment of a Jewish state on Palestinian soil. Security and peace arrangements will be needed between the Palestinian state and the Jewish state. How do you view this?

[Hawatimah] I would like to frankly and explicitly state here that those who put the cart before the horse adopt a stupid policy. They will not find a horse to push it. The international conference is the only forum that can discuss this issue.

For our part, we must struggle to wrest our rights and not to undertake capitulatory steps or offer concessions in advance. The United States, West European countries, and Egypt are putting pressure on us to do so without anything in return.

Resolution No 181 has given our people the right to establish their independent state on their soil. We must exercise this right and force others to recognize it. It is now the time of the uprising, which has opened the road before us after the opportunity we had in 1948 had been lost as a result of the procrastination of the Palestinian command at the time, and as a result also of this command's relations with the Arab regimes, which had hampered our people's right. At the time, the Arab countries conspired with the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Zionist movement to undermine this right and to distribute the Palestinian state among themselves.

Now there is a second historic opportunity under the canopy of the uprising. We can start with this step and wrest broad Arab and international recognition.

The borders of this state will be discussed at the international conference because we have to keep in mind that 40 years after it was established by force and usurpation the borders of the Zionist enemy state are still not demarcated by the Zionist constitution.

Algeria

APS Lists Members of New Government

LD0911172488 Algiers APS in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 9 Nov (APS)—The Presidency issued the following statement today:

Mr Kasdi Merbah, head of the government, this morning presented the members of his government which he formed after intensive consultations. The president of the Republic has appointed the following ministers:

Minister of Foreign Affairs	Boualem Bessaih
Minister of Interior and Environment	Boubaker Belkaid
Minister of Religious Affairs	Boualem Baki
Minister of Veterans	Mohamed Djeghaba
Minister of Justice	Ali Benfiles
Minister of Labor and Social Affairs	Mohamed Nabi
Minister of Transportation	El-Hadi Khediri
Minister of Informatioon and Culture	Mohamed Ali Ammar
Minister of Finance	Sayed Ahmed Ghazali
Minister of Trade	Mourad Medelci
Minister of Irrigation	Mohamed Benfriha
Minister of Agriculture	Noureddine Kadra
Minister of Public Works	Aissa Abdellaoui
Minister of Construction	Nadir Benmati
Minister of Light Industry	Mohamed Taha Bouzeghoub
Minister of Energy	Sadek Boucena
Minister of Health	Masoud Zitouni
Minister of Higher Education	Abdelhamid Aberkane
Minister of Education	Slimane Cheikh
Minister of Youth	Cherif Rahmani
Minister of Post and Telecommunications	Yacine Fergani

Polisario Broadcast Reportedly Suspended

JN0711202088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Rabat—There are signs of a fundamental change in relations between Algeria and the Polisario movement in the interests of fully normalized ties between Algeria and Morocco, diplomatic sources here say.

Over the past few days, the sources add, Algerian authorities have taken two big steps toward reducing Polisario's status in Algeria and its ties with the government of Chadli Bendjedid.

Closure of Polisario's major information office in the Algerian capital, the most important of three it maintains in the country, was cited as the first step. The second step was said to be the suspension of the so-called "Voice of the Sahara"—a 30-minute daily broadcast by Polisario. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Congratulates Bush on Victory

NC0911154988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1508 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable of congratulations to U.S. Vice President George Bush on his victory in the U.S. presidential election:

Your well-deserved victory in winning the American people's confidence and their appreciation of your fine qualities and leadership have given me pleasure. We are confident that in the coming years you will devote your wisdom and broad experience in domestic and foreign affairs to uphold the causes to which we are jointly committed, particularly the issues pertaining to strengthening international peace and cooperation.

I am looking forward to cooperating with you, just as we have in the past, in order to bolster the friendship and cooperation between our countries and peoples in various spheres and to promote Egyptian-U.S. ties. We are confident that the issue of peace in the Middle East will enjoy priority status during your term of office, and that you will continue and enrich the intensive efforts begun by President Reagan's administration and attain its objectives. My best wishes for your success. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid: Bush Victory 'Very Reassuring'

NC0911150988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed the election of George Bush as U.S. President.

In a statement today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he believes that the election of Bush is very reassuring. He also expressed hope that the U.S. commitment to pursue its peace initiative, which began during President Ronald Reagan's administration, will continue. He said: We are confident that this U.S. policy will continue for the sake of attaining security and peace in the Middle East, a vital region that greatly needs peace efforts, particularly by the United States.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said he believes that the victory of President-elect Bush was expected, in view of his well-known qualities and the abilities he demonstrated in various past responsibilities.

Butrus Ghali Welcomes Bush Victory
NC0911121388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has welcomed the victory of new U.S. President George Bush in the presidential election. He expressed his hope that his victory will contribute to achieving scurity and stability in the whole world, particularly in the Middle East, and in boosting the peace process toward the desired goal. He also voiced his hope that the new U.S. Administration will achieve progress and prosperity for the American people.

AL-AKHBAR Notes 'Advantages' in Bush Election
NC1011070788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses the belief that George Bush's assumption of the U.S. Presidency may have some advantages, such as reducing the time his administration will need to examine various foreign policy problems before formulating its opinion. The paper notes in this regard that the new president has spent 8 years with Ronald Reagan and has participated in some capacity in following up international issues.

In its editorial appearing in its Thursday edition, the paper says that Democratic Party candidate Michael Dukakis' serious defeat at the hands of George Bush, the vice president and Republican Party candidate, in the presidential elections, is a new indication that the Jewish vote is not an influential factor in presidential elections, as the Zionist lobby and the Jewish-controlled media claim.

The paper adds that Dukakis' defeat has been almost certain for over 1 month despite the promises and pledges he made, particularly in the State of New York, the stronghold of American Jews, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. No U.S. Administration, Republican or Democrat, has agreed to meve the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, to recognize Jerusalem's annexation to Israel, and to regard Jerusalem as Israel's capital, because this flagrantly violates a long list of UN resolutions.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says all we wish is for the new resident of the White House to continue his predecessor's attempts from where they ended, not from where they started.

Commentary Views Bush Positions on Middle East
NC0911181488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary entitled: "Bush and the Middle East"]

[Text] The aspect of the U.S. election, which ended in victory for George Bush, that interests the Arab world is how committed the new U.S. Administration will be to peace, particularly in the turbulent Middle East. The problems of this region may well spill over beyond its own boundaries.

Observers believe that regardless of who the new U.S. President is, the special ties between the United States and Israel will remain intact. Observers also note that the new Republican President will be faced with a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate and that Jewish pressure groups are more vocal and effective than Arab groups.

It is true, however, that both George Bush and Michael Dukakis sometimes made remarks supportive of the Arabs and critical of Israel. We have mentioned several examples of such statements in earlier commentaries. During the election campaign, George Bush gave the impression that he will continue Ronald Reagan's policies in the Middle East. Bush has more than once criticized the Jewish state.

In 1984, William Safire, the well-known columnist of THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, wrote that Bush had urged the cancellation of sales of certain planes to Israel in retaliatiuon for its bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Bush also urged Reagan to vote in favor of a UN resolution condemning Israel for invading Lebanon in 1982. Furthermore, in the Irangate hearings in 1987, Bush said that U.S. interests were in the hands of the Israelis.

According to DPA, U.S. officials charged with Middle East affairs say in private that Bush is more energetic and effective and that he is likely to inject new life into the U.S. peace efforts. Having won the U.S. Presidency, Bush will have to establish a modus vivendi with the Congress, which will be slightly changed under the new administration. Both houses of the Congress will retain their Democratic majority, their susceptibility to the Jewish lobby, and several individuals from the Reagan era.

In our opinion, the Middle East situation will be reshaped in accordance with internal events in the region, such as the level of Arab solidarity and cohesion, the outcome of the Palestinian uprising, and the reaciton of the Israeli people to certain dangers which could have been avoided by peaceful means.

We also believe that positions are subject to change as new circumstances occur. Menachem Begin, for example, who was a hardliner within the Likud, agreed to enter into peace negotiations that led to the return of Sinai to Egyupt and could have led to the restoration of the remaining occupied land to the Arabs. Similarly, Yitzhaq Shamir voiced his opposition to the peace agreement and the Camp David accords, but he is now clinging to these accords and calling for their implementation with regard to the Palestinian problem.

The last point which we wish to make is that, regardless of the views of the new U.S. President, U.S. policies are governed by the supreme interests of that country. The United States has many interests in the Middle East, not least in the oil-rich Gulf countries. Bush himself has worked in the oil business. Certain observers say that

former Treasury Secretary James Baker, who headed the George Bush election campaign, may be appointed as secretary of state. Baker himself is another Texas oilman.

Egypt's Revolution Leader Nur al-Din Interviewed

JN0511181788 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
4 Nov 88 p 23

[Interview with Mahmud Nur al-Din, leader of Egypt's Revolution group, inside a court building by Sulayman al-Hakim on 2 November]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Al-Hakim: Are you permitted to read?

Nur al-Din: During interrogation, we were denied even access to newspapers. Subsequently, however, we had access to government papers. Our request to read opposition newspapers was refused. We were allowed to read certain books. My daughters brought me some but these were later withheld.

Al-Hakim: What is the treatment like in prison?

Nur al-Din: Decent and satisfactory. Prison officers do treat us with respect and affection. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim: We heard about an attempt on your life by Israel's Mosad men masquerading as journalists.

Nur al-Din: I heard about such an attempt which regrettably did not materialize.

Al-Hakim: And why regrettably?

Nur al-Din: Because I am waiting for the Mosad people to deal with them the way I excel at and they deserve. I had sought them outside prison walls and now I am waiting for them to seek me. They have not turned up, alas. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim: Have you received assistance from any Arab or foreign countries?

Nur al-Din: We have had support from all of the Arab peoples. We have received all support from every Arab across the Arab homeland. If you are speaking about material support, however, we have not had any such assistance from any Arab government.

Al-Hakim: Have you received support from Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir as investigations with you indicated?

Nur al-Din: Friendship, love, and affection is all that I have received from Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, which for me is enough. As for material assistance, I had no need of that. The money I spent in the cause of Egypt's Revolution came from personal savings which I earned working in business.

Al-Hakim: Was what you did the only path you tried in expressing your opinion of Camp David and rejecting the subsequent normalization? [of relations with Israel]

Nur al-Din: To begin with, I tried to express my rejection through writing, so I started the 23 July magazine in London. The idea was to express our rejection of Camp David. When this path proved ineffective, we decided to try a different mode of rejection, especially since Israel set about being belligerent; mounting attacks against Arabs in Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunis, and even inside Egypt itself.

Under such circumstances, taking on Israel through the printed word ceased to be potent. So it was inevitable that we take up arms to counter the aggression with what resources we had. I would say we acquitted ourselves well and would have been more successful had fate given us a few more months. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim: You attempted suicide in prison. Any regrets on that score?

Nur al-Din: Remorse is something I have never experienced and never will experience in my life.

Al-Hakim: You don't regret having attempted to take your own life?

Nur al-Din: I tried to kill myself when certain quarters sought to coerce me into making certain confessions. When these attempts were discontinued, I changed my mind. My attempted suicide was not to run away from life or punish myself for something I had done. The aim was to ransom friends of mine. [passage omitted]

Extremist Network's Israeli Ties Reported

PM1011101288 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
9-15 Nov 88 p8

[Unattributed report: "Links between an Egyptian Organization and Israeli Figures"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that a certain Egyptian security organ has submitted a serious report to the political leadership about an extremist organization uncovered some months ago in Cairo. The report confirms that the organization has some cells in a number of governorates consisting of a limited number of middle-aged people centered mainly in the Governorates of Suez, Alexandria, Matruh, Aswan, and Asyut.

The report also speaks of links between members of that organization and certain Israeli figures who used to work at the Israeli academic center and were expelled a year ago as persona non grata.

Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Departs Cairo

NC1011093888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Karim Koromo departed from Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Cameroon's Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

NC1011082488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Cameroonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacques Roger left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a 6-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Students Deported by U.S. Return to Tripoli

LD0911201688 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday evening, the Libyan Arab students deported by the U.S. Administrations' authorities from America and deprived them from their scientific pursuits in U.S. universities arrived in Tripoli.

In a statement to JANA's envoy at Tripoli International Airport, one of the deported students gave a statement exposing the terrorist inhumane practices of the U.S. Administration's provocations and supression of Libyan Arab students do not carry an humanitarian aspect. Big groups of terrorist U.S. policemen encircled us without any regard to the children and women who were subjected to extremely bad treatment from heavily armed American police.

He stressed that all those desperate attempts by the U.S. Administration against the sons of the Libyan Arab people had failed in the face of their brave confrontation and defiance to their fleets and aircraft in their failed aggression in Al-Tayr [April] month 1986.

Concluding his statement, he expressed his and his colleagues' happiness to return to the land of Great Jamahiriyah. The world's for us for all the free people, stressing that all the attempts of U.S. Administration are bound to fail facing the dignity and pride of this noble people and its solid will in facing imperialist plots.

11 Italians Sentenced for Illegal Fishing

LD0911220188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Nov JANA—Benghazi Court has reached a verdict regarding Case No 88/4 by convicting 10 Italians. Each one of them was sentenced to 2 and ½ years hard labor and fined 1,000 Libyan dinars after being found guilty of illegally entering Libyan Arab territorial waters.

The court has also ordered the confiscation of the two boats on which they were captured in addition to all the fishing equipment on board. The sentences are to be carried out immediately.

The court has also ordered the publication of the reasons on which the judgment was based in Benghazi's paper AL MADINAH.

Moreover, the Court of Summary Justice in Al-Khums also reached a verdict concerning case number 88/4 by sentencing (Ardinoa Astinavo), an Italian national, to 2 years hard labor and fining him 1,000 dinars after finding him guilty of illegally entering Libyan Arab territorial waters.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the boat that was seized and the equipment found on board and the publication of a summary of the ruling at the convicted men's expense. The convicted man will also be required to pay all the legal expenses.

The court cleared (Marcello Sidord), an Italian national, of the charges against him and ordered the publication of the reasons on which the judgment was based in the local paper AL-MIRQAB.

Joint Cooperation Document Signed with Uganda

LD0911093388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0802 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Gulf of Sidra, 9 Nov (JANA)—The minutes of joint cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Uganda were signed at the Gulf of Sidra last night. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Secretary for Economy and Foreign Trade and by Eriya Kategaya, first deputy prime minister of Uganda.

The minutes stipulate the setting up of a Libyan Arab-Ugandan joint committee for the consolidation of joint cooperation between the two friendly peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and Uganda in a manner that would serve their mutual interest in all fields. The minutes also provide for the exchange of delegations and technical expertise between the two countries in the industrial and economic spheres.

Al-Qadhdhafi, African Leaders Attend Festival

LD0911224588 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Mass Mobilization and Revolutionary Guidance gave a speech at the festival held [word indistinct] masses of the Basic People's Congresses at Gulf of Defiance municipality last night, which was attended by the leader of the revolution, President Yoweri Musevini of Uganda, and Jerry Rawlings the chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council in Ghana, in which he said:-

"We welcome you to this evening party in which children, men and old people take part as we sing, dance and fight in harmony with the slogan we hold on this part of the African land.

"When we meet with you, you revolutionaries, we remember the revolutionaries of Africa: Nkruma, Luvumba and 'Abd al-Nasir from whose school we learned struggle. We say to you that this revolutionary Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is an embodiment of revolution and revolutionaries in Africa".

"This African land, and what changes took place over it, is the land of all revolutionaries."

"America, which claims liberty, was unable to treat a child with a heart disease from Liberia asking her family to pay 160,000 dollars for her treatment. Her family, which was unable to pay such amount, now in Tajouraa hospital for heart disease receiving medical treatment over an African land". [sentence as received]

Malian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

LD0911214888 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Az Zawiyah, Al-Harth (November] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Modibo Keita" Mali's foreign minister who is visiting Great Jamahiriyah nowadays, paid a visit this morning to Al-Zawiyah municipality. He toured the TV factory listening to full briefings on the production stages and capacity.

The minister expressed great admiration to what he saw of the advance electronic industry.

He also visited Al-Zawiyah oil refinery touring its department witnessing the work process. At a reception held for the guests, full information were given on the oil industries in Jamahiriyah, the construction stages of the refinery and oil factories of Al-Zawiyah oil refinery company.

In a speech at the reception, Modibo Keita hailed the welcome and the hospitality he had received which expressed Arab-African tradition.

He expressed pride in the advancement of relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Mali and the continued cooperation in all fields. He also expressed great admiration to what cultural achievement the Libyan Arab people have accomplished in various fields—thanks to the great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Documents Exchanged on Agreements With Algeria

LD1011102888 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tarth [November] 13 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday morning, an official ceremony was held at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison for the exchange of documents ratifying 2 agreements on informational cooperation and the setting of a joint company for drilling water wells between Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria within the framework of the outstanding fraternal relations and the unity steps between both sisterly countries.

The documents were exchanged between Abdelkader Hadjar the ambassador of sisterly Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah and the director of the Administration of Treaties and Legal Affairs at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to mark the start of impleimenting those two agreements which were signed in Algiers on 16 [word indistinct].

Burkina Faso's Compaore Makes Statement, Departs

LD0911092788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 9 Nov (JANA)—Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, left a municipal airport on the Gulf of Defiance [Gulf of Sidra] yesterday following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Captain Blaise Compaore made a statement to JANA in which he praised the positive results achieved by his visit to the Jamahiriyah. He described his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution as a historic one.

He indicated that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah fell within the framework of contacts and consultations on various revolutionary issues related to the Great Jamahiriyah and the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, in particular, and to the African Continent and the world in general.

Captain Blaise Compaore announced that an agreement was reached on revolutionary programs related to African revolutionaries present in the Great Jamahiriyah, the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Ghana for the consolidation of the freedom and dignity of African nations in the African Continent.

Morocco

King Hassan II Congratulates Bush on Election

LD0911210188 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II—God make him victorious—has sent a message of congratulations to Mr George Bush following his election as U.S. President.

Here is the text of the message:

Mr President: The U.S. people's choice of you as designated head of state has evoked our satisfaction. It tends to make all peace- and justice-loving people happy. Your attachment to the noble ethical values which represent your country's greatness and the long experience you have acquired during the period of your work alongside a man who has won our esteem and respect constitute the the best guarantee that you will continue the policy of concord which has been started.

We had the opportunity to become acquainted with you well over 10 years ago and to evaluate your farsightedness and your (?wise judgment) of affairs and people. We are confident that the work which has already been embarked upon and which aims to put an end to various regional disputes which threaten world security and stability will, under your leadership, have an effective and an active influence in the Middle East, with which we are linked by numerous ties and whose strategic importance is not unknown to you for realizing an international balance.

While wishing you good fortune and success in your future work, we beg you, Mr President, to accept our highest esteem.

Sudan

UAE Ambassador, Embassy Employees Held Hostage

NC0911124888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Nov (MENA)—An armed UAE national stormed the UAE Embassy building in the Al Imarat area in Khartoum this morning. After all embassy personnel had entered their offices, the gunman took the ambassador and some employees hostage.

The Sudanese security forces have surrounded the embassy and all roads leading to it. They are currently trying to contact the person who stormed the building to ascertain his demands.

It has turned out that the unidentified person had previously applied for visas for a number of Sudanese persons in order to help them enter the UAE and work as shepherds, but he had received no reply.

The gunman asked the embassy to connect him by telephone with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The Sudanese authorities tried to do so but told the gunman that they had failed to make contact with Shaykh Zayid.

'Special Force' Rescues Hostages

NC0911150188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Nov (MENA)—A special force of six officers commanded by Major General Muhammad Badin broke into the UAE Embassy in Khartoum and arrested the person who had stormed it. They also succeeded in releasing UAE Ambassador Muhammad ibn Sultan al-Suwaydi, three embassy employees and a security officer. This was done without loss of life.

The rescue operation was supervised by 'Abbas Abu Shama, Sudanese interior minister and Al-Fatih 'Abdun, governor of Khartoum. The operation in which the UAE Embassy intruder was arrested lasted only 40 seconds. It began with several shots being fired into the air, after which a special forces unit quickly stormed the building, arrested the intruder, and released the hostages.

Those taken hostage inside the UAE Embassy stated after their release that the person who detained them claimed to be Sudanese before entering the building. He spoke a Gulf dialect, however.

During a telephone conversation with an official employee in the office of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi, the 30-year old intruder demanded the release of some political detainees and to talk with Shaykh Zayid about some matters of concern to the UAE. The employee replied that Shaykh Zayid was not available and it was difficult to contact him. The intruder then threatened to blow up the embassy.

Sudanese officials tried to persuade the intruder to surrender voluntarily. When he refused, a Sudanese special forces unit stormed the embassy, arrested him and released the hostages.

No official Sudanese statement has been released yet about this affair.

Armed Forces Statement on 8 Nov Battle

EA0911221888 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Statement by the General Command of the People's Armed Forces issued 8 November]

[Text] Your brave soldiers in the Upper Nile area are continuing their victories over the scattered remnants of the traitors, rebels, agents, and mercenaries. The forces of Al-Nasir Garrison this morning carried out a heroic attack, displaying the Sudanese soldier's bravery.

They inflicted heavy material and human losses on the rebel forces. The losses of the rebels up until 1200 yesterday amounted to 200 killed. Our forces captured huge amounts of various equipment, arms, and ammunition.

Here is a list of the arms Our Armed Forces captured: one (b) 10 gun; one (Dochka) gun [preceding weapon designations as heard]; two 81 mm mortars; a 120 mm [word indistinct] mortar: and a quantity of Kalashnikov guns, RPG guns, and various types of ammunition, which are being enumerated.

Our forces returned safely to base crowned with victory. Victory comes only from Allah. Heaven and eternity to our dutiful martyrs, strength and pride to our Armed Forces and to our beloved Sudan.

SPLA Forces Clash With 'Enemy' Convoy

EA0911184188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Maban—Reports reaching Radio SPLA from southern Blue Nile region say that a unit of Maban Task Force 1, under the direct command of lieutenant David Dak Bol and the overall command of Alterante commander Makuei Deng Majuch, on 26 October 1988 clashed with the enemy convoy coming from Shali in a futile attempt to reinforce the enemy troops in Yabus.

Our correspondent for Radio SPLA in the area says that when the enemy force reached Shokhi, in Nurah village, on the Shali-Yabus road, they fell into an SPLA ambush where the enemy force was badly beaten till they ran in disarray, leaving behind four of their soldiers dead and many wounded. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent said that SPLA forces are in full control of the area. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Refutes SPLA Claim of Town Capture

EA0911123188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Staff Brigadier (Muhammad Uthman Malik), official spokesman of the Armed Forces, denied the outlaws claim that they had captured the Talanga area.

His Excellency added that the Talanga area is an outpost guarding one of the tea factories, and its strength is one platoon.

He pointed out that instructions had been issued to this platoon to join the main force in the Talanga Garrison, and that has already been accomplished without any interference from the outlaws.

Justice Minister Cited on Ties with Libya

PM0811163888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 88 p3

[Interview with Dr Hasan al-Turabi, Justice Minister and secretary general of the National Islamic Front, by Al-Sir Sayyid Ahmad in Riyadh; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] Reports on recent contacts with Libya refer to the establishment of a confederation between the two countries. How can Sudan embark on such arrangements before it achieves its internal unity?

[Al-Turabi] The relationship stipulated in the unity action charter between the Jamahiriyah and Sudan cannot constitutionally be described as a confederation. The proposed organs are not at that level. They are similar to ministerial committees. It is a normal diplomatic measure within the framework of cooperation. Cooperation can be maintained on one issue or several, or can be enhanced on a federal basis with a view to a complete merger. It is similar to the brotherhood charter signed with Egypt, which reflects the intention to cooperate on many issues in the cultural, economic, and political fields. Besides, the organs are very simple: regular meetings of the two leaders and a joint administrative committee comprising 60 members of the two legislative bodies. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] So why has there been progress with Libya when the present government's guiding tendency is to maintain distinct relations with both Egypt and Libya?

[Al-Turabi] It has nothing to do with Sudan. It has to do with Libya's insistence on a higher level. They originally began with the idea of complete unity. We tried to reach a realistic formula that would not close the door to future unity. But negotiations ended at that point. The Egyptian brothers were eager to have ties of any kind with the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government, which is why they accepted what he offered and did not negotiate with him. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Is there any intention to develop this relationship?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Apart from the trade protocol, which is a specific one, the cooperation program has not achieved anything worth mentioning. This is why unbureaucratic organs must be set up to develop relations in a better way. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Do the developed relations with Libya mean a return to the atmosphere of polarization in Sudanese foreign relations, which would prompt others—especially Garang—to turn to other forces?

[Al-Turabi] The charter proposed between the two countries has been called a unity charter so that it will not be interpreted as a bilateral bloc. True, Garang is eager to

sever Sudan's military links. But Sudan receives non-Libyan aid as well. The Libyans tend to respond more promptly than others in terms of friendship and dispute. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] According to certain statements, the dialogue with Libya dates back to 1973 when the ruling parties were in the opposition. Does this not imply a settling of old scores?

[Al-Turabi] During the national front era (in the opposition—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT editor's note) we maintained relations with Libya different from those maintained by the other brothers. We decided that our relations should be maintained through the national front instead of establishing a direct party relations. We refused to sacrifice the Eritrean issue, because of its strategic nature. We disagreed with the Libyans over their support for John Garang, because that was a strategic error, regardless of enmity with Al-Numayri.

We continued our relations after reconciliation. We did not sever our ties. And nothing prevented us from taking an independent, just stand on Chad in order to protect our national interests in Darfur. In Islam, the unity principle cannot be rejected. In our foreign policy, we have always stated that we are seeking unity in all directions, in Africa and the Arab world. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] The large-scale military escalation in the South and security troubles in Darfur raise a major question about the possibility of the next election being held.

[Al-Turabi] With regard to Darfur, armed robbery is in the process of being eliminated. As for local conflicts, these can easily be handled administratively rather than militarily, because they are the outcome of the situation there. They are not directed at the central government. The next elections will be held in 1 and ½ years' time. We have already embarked on procedural matters in this regard. It has been agreed that there be electoral records, to be reviewed and updated annually. We expect the local and regional elections to be held next spring. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II Official Denies Libyan Help

EA0811234088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Speech by Anya Nya II Politburo Member Muhammad Chuol; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We tell people right now in the areas of fierce operations—that is, in Upper Nile and Equatoria—that for some days past we have pointed out that all citizens should enter [word indistinct] and we said people must come to the towns where the Anya Nya II forces and the armed forces are. Everyone should know that the presence of the SPLA in any area constitutes a danger to the lives of the citizens and their (?property). Thus, we are telling all the people in the different operational areas to try to resist the SPLA presence.

We now want to tell the SPLA that since you want to liberate Sudan and you have liberated certain areas, then we say: wait and stay in those places of which we have already destroyed three-quarters. The Sudanese people should now know that all the camps in the south which the SPLA has been talking about have been completely destroyed. John Garang's soldiers are fleeing into the bush as a result of the defeat.

After the defeat, they, together with their fifth column from the African parties here are saying these days that there are aircraft of Libya and other states. Which states? The SPLA is supported by Israel and the communist states. So, Anya Nya II and the armed forces are fighting here in the south and we have no Libyan support or support from any states apart from our own, the sons of the south and our brothers in the Sudanese Armed Forces.

That is why we know the meanings of all the allegations made by the African parties. We warned them against believing that under democracy they could talk as they like and do as they like. We now direct all our forces in the operational areas in Malakal, Equatoria, and Bahr al-Ghazal to do away with anyone from the SPLA forces or from the nasty African parties who may hold a symposium, or incite or even just talk about the SPLA.

We have no time for such useless people in the south and leave to remain as refugees forever those who cry in Khartoum. Because these people are traders who want to trade with the southern cause and become an opposition to their own people. They are the ones who sell the rations of their people. They are the ones who never talk about the problem and the way it can be solved. [passage omitted] I have heard some nonsense on the SPLA radio that they have requested an exchange of prisoners of war. We do not have prisoners of war in Sudan.

Anyone from the SPLA who has surrendered or was captured is now living in Sudan as an official, worker, or a citizen. But the prisoners of war about whom John Garang speaks—that is, those who were captured by the Ethiopians in Jokau or other places—should not be traded inside their own country, even if you want to do this. If you want to release them, release them as Sudanese citizens. But as for propaganda, we reject your propaganda and say that this is merely bargaining to gain time. [passage omitted]

Saudi Paper on Lull in Khartoum Demonstrations

PM0911155088 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 Nov 88 p1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Khartoum Demonstrations Ease; No Arrests"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah by telephone to Khartoum—Sudanese State Council Member Mirghani al-Nasri has stated that the demonstrations are beginning to ease and dying out

completely. He told 'UKAZ that some students staged a few marches and demonstrations yesterday but there was no sabotage.

Al-Nasri denied that there have been large scale arrests but he admitted that some students were arrested for acts of sabotage and vandalism but were later released.

He added that the demonstrations are not serious and the situation has been good since the improvement in the supply of sugar and flour.

He said the crisis began when storage workers went on strike and deliveries to the capital were slowed down. The strike of some workers in Port Sudan also affected supplies, he said. He emphasized, however, that several ships, which had been delayed by temporary setbacks, will begin to arrive from Canada. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad had earlier told 'UKAZ that the government has taken all necessary measures to quickly end the sugar and flour shortages which were the cause of the demonstrations.

In reply to a question by 'UKAZ, he said that political organizations opposed to the government—of various leftist affiliations of course—were behind the demonstrations and have exploited the situation. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Premier Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

LD1011093088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 10 (KUNA)—Kuwait's crown prince and premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the newly elected U.S. President George Bush. Shaykh Sa'd wished the new President success and expressed confidence that strong bilateral relations will be fostered and promoted in years to come.

Amir Cables Congratulations

LD1011112188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0958 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 10 (KUNA)—The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President-elect George Bush, in which the Amir wished Bush success in his new responsibilities and hoped for the strengthening of ties and understanding between the two countries.

Shaykh Jabir also hoped that the new U.S. Administration will give priority to the Palestinian cause.

U.S. Elections Called 'Purely Internal Affair'

LD0911132788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1219 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 9 (KUNA)—In the first official Kuwaiti reaction to results of the U.S. Presidential elections, acting premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday said who will be the next U.S. President is a purely internal American affair.

"It's an internal matter that concerns the Americans alone," Shaykh Sabah said in a statement to KUNA.

"As Arabs we wish that any American President would pay greater attention to our issues in the context of justice and objectivity and translate human rights slogans to actual practices with no discrimination between a race and another," he added.

Prime Minister Urges Resistance Against Terrorism

LD0911201188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1558 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 9 (KUNA)—His highness the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Wednesday said "terrorism exists whether we like it or not", but stressed that Kuwait will not succumb to it.

In a press conference at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Sa'd said aggressions that had targetted Kuwaiti vital interests were aimed at changing the country's policies. "Kuwait will not change its policies, and will work now and in the future to reject such pressures", the crown prince added.

Shaykh Sa'd also called for drawing clear distinction between just struggle for independence and terrorism, which he said will not be tolerated.

He praised the existing security cooperation among member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GSS), noting officials of the council states are cooperating in chasing "evil elements."

"We in Kuwait look for more cooperation and coordination in this respect", he added.

In response to a question, Shaykh Sa'd said the Saudi-Kuwaiti agreement on the divided border area had been a result of collective efforts and true desire to cooperate with the Saudi brothers to "abort opportunities for ill-willed people."

Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and his Saudi counterpart Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz signed the agreement in Al-Madinah last night. Shaykh Sa'd expressed content over the agreement, noting "we will intensify cooperation to implement its articles that will preserve interests of citizens in both countries."

His highness stressed Kuwait's commitment to champion the causes of the Islamic Nation as instructed by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. He also underlined the need for cohesion among Islamic countries to abort hostile schemes.

Regarding the International Islamic Court of Justice, Shaykh Sa'd hoped that studies in this respect would be ready for endorsement before the Muslim leaders hold their sixth Islamic conference in Senegal two years from now.

At the opening of the press conference, Shaykh Sa'd said GCC countries are now required to coordinate between them more closely to serve the best interests of their peoples.

On his talks with Saudi officials, the crown prince said they were characterized by the spirit of fraternity, understanding, and the genuine desire for cooperation between the two peoples in various areas.

Commenting on the tension which prevailed during the Gulf war, he said countries of the region are now watching the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations in Geneva.

"Let us all pray to Almighty Allah that the negotiations would succeed and those countries (Iran and Iraq) would accept to implement the Security Council Resolution (598), so that peace and prosperity would dwell in the region", he stressed.

Shaykh Sa'd called on OPEC members to stick to prices and production quotas, noting Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are committed to this policy.

On the joint Kuwaiti-Saudi committee, which was formed during his current visit, Shaykh Sa'd said the committee comprises foreign, oil and interior ministers of the two countries to follow up cooperation issues. The committee meets alternately in Riyadh and Kuwait, he said.

On plans to transfer the Kuwaiti oil pipeline to the Red Sea, Shaykh Sa'd said, if this topic concerns us and the Saudis, it will be discussed through the joint committee, but if it involves the Gulf states, it will be discussed by GCC ministers concerned.

Shaykh Sa'd stressed the need for protection of Gulf states and Arab countries if its (Kuwait's) security was endangered, denying that Kuwait has requested foreign protection.

Answering a query, his highness renewed Kuwait's firm support for the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. He said a positive shift in the U.S. Mideast policy would hinge on a collective stance of the Arab countries.

"If there was continuous Arab understanding and a consensus on a common policy, a change would occur in American policy," he said.

Shaykh Sa'd deplored the political chaos in Lebanon as manifested in the presence of two governments and the lack of a president and said Arab ministers agreed to meet in Tunis to try and help resolve Lebanon's crisis.

The foreign ministers reached the agreement when they met in New York during the U.N. General Assembly session few weeks ago, he said. He pointed out that Kuwait had repeatedly backed calls for such a gathering to rescue Lebanon.

His highness reiterated Kuwait's support for the Afghan Mujahidin and said "I'm optimistic that the Soviet forces would withdraw from Afghanistan sooner or later and am sure that the Soviet Union would roll back its troops on the scheduled date."

On Kuwait's relations with the superpowers, Shaykh Sa'd described ties with the U.S. as "good" and links with the Soviet Union as "clear."

"We know that the Soviet Union has interests as a superpower and we are watching its new policy and their pledge to pull out of Afghanistan," he added.

On Kuwaiti-American ties, he indicated that his visit to the United States last July was successful, saying his talks with President Ronald Reagan and top administration officials were frank and clear. His highness said he had sensed then that the American leaders had the desire to cooperate wtih Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries.

Foreign Minister on Meeting With Iran's Besharati

LD0911211588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, in an interview with Kuwaiti media today expressed hope that relations between Arab countries of the Perisan Gulf littoral and Iran, may expand. According to IRNA, he also termed his meeting with Mr Besharati, the deputy foreign minister of our country, as positive and good and added that his meeting with Mr Besharati reflected good intentions and a desire to strengthen and solidify relations between Iran and the countries of the region.

PDRY

Leaders Congratulate USSR on October Revolution

EA0711101788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, have sent a joint congratulatory cable to Comrades Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution which takes place tomorrow, Monday.

The cable says: On 6 November your people and country celebrate, and with them all progressive people in the world, the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Republic which constituted a decisive turning point in the contemporary history of the Soviet people and all peoples of the world and the beginning of a new era in the history of all mankind.

On this occasion, we must convey to you and the friendly Soviet people on behalf of the YSP Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the Council of Ministers, and the people of the PDRY our warmest heartfelt congratulations and our best wishes. The 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution comes while your people, under the leadership of your great party, have achieved tremendous achievements in diverse fields along the road of building and strengthening the socialist system, despite difficulties and conspiracies hatched by the imperialist forces against your revolution and country throughout the years. These achievements were created and continue to be created by the growing strength of the socialist system and the spread of scientific socialism in all parts of the world.

The current developments being witnessed by your country on the road of reconstruction, expansion of democracy, and public action [allaniyah] enjoy the respect and

appreciation of the masses of our people in the PDRY since these transformations will strengthen the status of the socialist sytem in the world, clarify its good points, and provide a wide field for the spread of the principles of the new political thinking aimed at strengthening international peace and security. They will also ward off the threat of an outbreak of a nuclear war which will bring about the destruction of the different peoples of the world and entrench the relations of understanding and amity among peoples.

As we record our satisfaction over the concurrence of the stands of our two countries on regional and international issues, we express confidence that the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, parties, and peoples, which depend on the basis of the 1979 treaty, will develop further to serve the interests of our two friendly peoples and countries.

We wish you and the friendly Soviet people on this occasion greater successes along the road of achieving all your objectives in reconstruction and a closer development of the close relations between our two parties, peoples, and countries.

Qatar

Amir Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

JN0911145488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani congratulated the Republican Party candidate George Bush on winning the U.S. presidential elections.

In a cable to George Bush today, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah expressed hope that in his presidential role Bush will entrench the bases of peace and security in the world. He also called on Bush to contribute, during his presidency, to solving the problems of the world according to international law, especially the regional conflicts which—if they continue without a just and comprehensive solution—pose a great danger to international peace and security, foremost of which is the Middle East problem and its essence, the Palestine question.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah expressed hope that George Bush will continue what his predecessor, President Ronald Reagan, started in the way of efforts to find a solution to the Middle East crisis, until the Palestine question—an issue for over 40 years—will be resolved in a just, comprehensive, and permanent way through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and within the framework of the international resolutions giving the Palestinian people their full legitimate rights and providing other nations in the region with peace and security.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati Arrives

JN0811192188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 8 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Doha this evening on a 2-day visit to the State of Qatar. His visit is part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

Gives Khamene'i Message to Amir

JN0911104888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

QNA reports that the message deals with bilateral relations, the enhancement of Iranian relations with Arabian Gulf countries, developments in the region, and the current Iraq-Iran negotiations to establish peace and settle the conflict between them through peaceful means according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati conveyed the message when the Qatari amir received him here today.

Meets With Heir Apparent

JN0911111088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, today received 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the Iranian president's envoy and Iranian deputy foreign minister, currently visiting Doha. They reviewed the overall situation in the region and bilateral relations. The Iranian envoy arrived in Doha last night on a 2-day visit to Qatar as part of his tour of the region's countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates George Bush on Election

LD0911222388 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud sent a congratulatory cable to his excellency, the U.S. President-elect George Bush. The text of the cable follows.

Your Excellency Mr George Bush, on the occasion of your election as President of the United States of America, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you on behalf of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in my own name, the best friendly wishes and profound congratulations for the trust put in you by the friendly American people to lead them. On this occasion in which you shoulder this responsibility, which you

deserve, I wish you continued success in your responsibilities toward your friendly country and toward international peace and security.

I also stress the firm relations between our friendly countries and their joint aspiration to achieve justice, peace, and stability in the Middle East region and all over the world, and to secure prosperity for mankind everywhere under the shadow of justice and noble values. Greetings.

[Signed] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

King Fahd Comments on Relations With Kuwait

LD1011115088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0635 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Medina, 10 Nov SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has emphasized the depth of the fraternal relations which tie the fraternal state of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He also praised the personal relationship between himself and his brother, His Higheness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the fraternal state of Kuwait.

This came in an interview which the king gave to the editors of Kuwaiti newspapers during a luncheon hosted by him the day before yesterday, Tuesday, in honor of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister of the state of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, at the Al-Taybah Palace in Al-Madinah.

The custodian of the two holy mosques pointed out that the Gulf Cooperation Council is based upon mutual interest, not on convenience. He stressed the belief of the states of the region in this Council, pointing out that the aim of the GCC is not to isolate the states of the Arab Gulf from the Arab League but to embody the similarities which tie the sons of the region, that is, through traditions, conventions, and shared circumstances.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said that the GCC has proved its ability to ward off danger from the states of the region, thanks to the understanding of its leaders and the solidarity of its peoples.

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

JN0911174188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 9 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today expressed hope that the new U.S. Administration under President-elect George Bush would work to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue and eliminate tension in the Middle East region.

In a congratulatory cable, the president told Bush the UAE was "sincerely seeking cooperation with you for the sake of bolstering cordial relations between our two countries, the Emirates News Agency said. [no closing quotation marks as received]

"We hope that your next administration will work to find a just settlement of the Palestinian cause and eliminate tension in the Middle East region." the cable said.

"We also hope that your wise leadership will continue efforts to stop the arms race and ... achieve international detente." the president said.

Shaykh Zayid underlined the importance of global efforts to "lessen the sufferings of Third World countries."

Foreign Ministry Official Praises Sudanese Police

JN1011060088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2005 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Nov (WAKH)—The UAE praised the way the Sudanese Government handled the regrettable incident which the UAE Embassy was subjected to in Khartoum today.

WAM, citing a responsible official in the Foreign Ministry, said the behavior of the Sudanese Forces which led to the release of the UAE ambassador and some of the embassy staff without any injuries and which ended the incident and arrested the armed person who broke into the embassy, had a good effect on ending the incident quickly and peacefully. One of the Sudanese commando groups this afternoon succeeded in arresting the armed person who had infiltrated the UAE embassy in Khartoum this noon.

The armed person had broken into the embassy at 1200 noon today UAE time. Sudanese Armed Forces and police groups immediately surrounded the embassy and closed off the roads leading to it. The minister of interior and chief of police arrived at the embassy and tried to convince the person who broke into the embassy to surrender without their resorting to weapons. He did not, however, heed their call.

At 1640 this afternoon, a group of commando forces stormed the embassy and captured the armed person without inflicting any injuries. They freed the ambassador, consul, and four embassy staff whom the armed person had held captive.

Citing Capital Commissioner Major General 'Abdun al-Fatih, SUNA said that the person who broke into the embassy was carrying a briefcase and [word indistinct] tied with a red scarf which looked like explosives. He indicated that the armed person, whose name and motives are not known, is about 30 years old and carries a Sudanese passport.

The Sudanese Armed Forces' operation lasted only 40 seconds and only two bullets were fired for intimidation purposes. The operation was a great success.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Congratulates Bush on Election

JN0911215388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, sent a congratulatory cable to George Bush on the occasion of his election as president of the United States of America.

In the cable, he expressed his best wishes to him to achieve everything he aims to achieve in his friendly country, in the way of entrenching international peace and security, and removing the hotbeds in the world on the bases of the solutions set by international legitimacy which affirm the right of nations to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty.

He affirmed the YAR's readiness to continue [word indistinct] during his term in office, which [words indistinct] cordial relations which bind the two friendly countries and which are founded on sound bases of mutual respect, joint cooperation, and not interference in internal affairs.

'Aziz Meets UN's Eliasson, Comments on Meeting

JN0911130188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 9 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva this morning.

In a brief statement to the press, Tariq 'Aziz described his 90-minute meeting with Jan Eliasson as good and fruitful. The foreign minister added: We are always ready to sit together and discuss all issues with good intentions.

In reply to a question on the issue of exchanging the sick and wounded POW's, Tariq 'Aziz said that the International Committee of the Red Cross will start its mission of exchanging POW's on 20 November.

Jan Eliasson is expected to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at 1500 Geneva time today.

Experts Meet With Eliasson

JN1011130288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 10 Nov (INA)-An Iraqi delegation on the level of experts met at the Palais des Nations in Geneva this morning with Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran. They discussed issues related to the progress of the third round of negotiations, which began on 31 October, and the procedures to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The Iraqi side to the meeting—held at the secretary general's headquarters—was led by 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative and member of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations.

Earlier today, Eliasson held a similar meeting with an Iranian delegation led by Sirus Naseri, the second ranking official in the Iranian delegation to the negotiations. The meeting lasted 1 and ½ hours. This is the first meeting on the level of experts between the UN secretary general's representative and the delegations of the two countries.

Vice President Ma'ruf Leaves on Visit to France

JN0611102588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, left Baghdad for Paris this morning on an official visit to France at the invitation of the French Government. On conclusion of his visit to France, Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf will tour a number of European states.

In a predeparture statement to INA, the vice president said that he will hold talks with French officials on the developed bilateral relations and the international and regional issues of common interest to both states.

Ma'ruf added that he will brief French officials on the latest developments of the ongoing Iraqi-Iranian Geneva negotiations and on Iraq's eagerness to reach a comprehensive and durable peace with Iran and resolve all outstanding issues on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf will also hold meetings with French parliamentary, journalistic, and intellectual figures to explain Iraq's stance.

The delegation accompanying the vice president comprises the deputy speaker of the National Assembly; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Culture and Information Ministry, and the Trade Ministry.

Admits Chemical Weapons Use

PM1011111088 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Nov 88 p 12

["J.G." report: "Iraqi Vice President Admits His Country Used Chemical Weapons in Kurdistan"]

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf admitted during a press luncheon on Tuesday 8 November that his government used chemical weapons in Halabjah, in Iraqi Kurdistan, last March. Several thousand Kurdish civilians were killed in that operation.

Mr Ma'ruf, himself of Kurdish origin, justified that operation by stating that at the time Iraq was facing a war of aggression. "Any state which faces an aggression," he said, "has the right to use all available means to end that aggression. Responsibility for everything that happened rests with the Talabani traitors (Footnote) (Supporters of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) who plundered the property of all the citizens of Halabjah and destroyed everything before they withdrew," he added, stating that Iraq is planning to rebuild that city.

The Iraqi vice president, who has a purely symbolic role, gave solemn assurance that the Iraqis had not resorted to chemical weapons since the cease-fire agreed between Baghdad and Tehran in August. He added that everything said on this subject was the work of "Zionist and U.S. circles who launched an anti-Iraqi campaign about chemical weapons in order to tarnish Iraq's victory and give new impetus to Iran."

Mr Ma'ruf, on an official visit to France since Sunday, gave assurance that his country would refrain from using chemical weapons in the future and hinted that Baghdad would take part in the international conference on chemical weapons in Paris next January, as a signatory of the

Geneva convention which bans the use of chemical weapons. In this connection, he said that the French government had told Baghdad that no observers would attend that conference, which would be "reserved for states." The Kurdish separatist movements had asked to attend that conference as observers.

Government Calls for Mideast Nuclear-Free Zone

JN0811112288 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] United Nations, Nov. 8, INA—As the General Assembly's political and security committee yesterday continued its consideration of disarmament [word indistinct] Iraq stressed the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The Iraqi delegate, Rahim al-Kittal, told the committee there were three relevant facts in that regard: First, there are nuclear weapons in the region, which had been introduced by Israel, the only party in the Middle East to possess such weapons. Second, all parties which had a nuclear program of any size in the region had acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), with the exception of Israel. Third, the only significant nuclear facilities were those located in Israel, and they were not under international safeguards.

The Iraqi delegate said the only practical way to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone was to take practical steps in correcting the situation he had outlined. The following action was required: The immediate removal of existing nuclear-weapon stockpiles from the region, the undertaking by all parties not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons for explosive devices, the placing of all nuclear facilities under international safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the undertaking of all parties not to accept deployment on their territory of nuclear weapons belonging to other states, and not to join an alliance if a nuclear-weapon state were party to that alliance.

Such practical steps, Dr. al-Kittal said, should have no negative effect on the right of all parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful applications.

Saddam Chairs Army Command Meeting 9 Nov

JN0911214288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] His Excellency President and Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command and a number of specialists.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

Chairs Council Meeting

JN1011130588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has chaired a Council of Ministers meeting. During the meeting, a number of topics on the agenda were discussed and the appropriate decisions and measures were made.

Attending the meeting were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the RCC members; the comrade members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidency office; the ministers; and a number of state officials.

Saddam Congratulates Gorbachev on Anniversary

JN0711175288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on the 71st October revolution anniversary. On this occasion, his excellency sent both USSR officials a cable reiterating Iraq's interest in enhancing relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the USSR based on the treaty concluded between both countries in a way that will further the interests of the two friendly peoples and contribute to securing a just peace, security, and stability in the world.

Beirut Paper on USSR Mediation With Syria

NC0411074888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Citing a diplomatic source, the AL-NAHAR newspaper reports that the Soviet Union is conducting behind-the-scenes efforts to mend Iraqi-Syrian differences. The paper adds that the Soviet Union is also holding exchanges to urge Iraq to alter its new stand in Lebanon.

FRG Economic Official Received for Talks

LD0511144088 Hamburg DPA in German 1307 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad (DPA)—At the start of 3 days of talks with Dieter von Wuerzen, FRG secretary of state for economic affairs in Baghdad, Iraqi government representatives on Saturday expressed interest in strengthened cooperation. At the same time, Wisam al-Zahawi, under secretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, criticized the latest decisions by the European Parliament and the Bundestag on the use of poison gas, disputed by Iraq, against Kurds in the north of the country.

In his talks, which last until Monday, Von Wuerzen intends to help improve the framework for economic cooperation. After the ceasefire in the Gulf, German enterprises are hoping for increased orders from Iraq,

although Iraq's backlog of payments puts pressure on cooperation. Von Wuerzen said on Saturday, at his first meeting with Iraqi Transport Minister Muhammad Hamzah al Zubaydi, that Bonn is fundamentally ready for new export guarantees (Hermes guarantees), as long as the peace process goes ahead and debt issues could be resolved satisfactorily. For 1988, Bonn has set aside some DM350 million for guarantees, of which DM200 million are already budgeted for. The conditions still must be negotiated for the final release of the remaining DM150 million. [passage omitted, background]

In the meeting with Von Wuerzen, Transport Minister Hamzah al-Zubaydi showed particular interest in German ways of making the Shatt al-'Arab navigable again for large ships, and of reconstructuring the ports on the Gulf.

On the Federal Republic's attitude in the debate on the alleged use of poison gas against Kurds, Von Wuerzen said that the Germans are particularly sensitive on this point and back a worldwide ban on chemical weapons at all levels. [passage omitted]

Von Wuerzen pointed out that Iraqi Vice President Taha Ma'ruf would have the chance on his forthcoming European trip to clarify the Iraqi attitude. Ma'ruf is due in Bonn at the end of November.

Ramadan Talks With FRG, CSSR Officials

JN0611161288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received Dieter von Wuerzen, Economy Ministry under secretary in the FRG [title as received].

During the meeting, they dis.ussed ways to promote Iraqi-FRG relations and cooperation in economic, trade, and technical areas. The FRG official stressed the readiness of the FRG institutions and companies to participate in the implementation of a number of development projects now and in the future.

Ramadan also met today with Jiri Limek, CSSR Foreign Trade Ministry under secretary [name and title as received]. They reviewed future bilateral cooperation. Ramadan also praised the cooperation of the CSSR institutions with Iraq in implementing a number of projects during wartime, adding that the future will witness expanded cooperation.

The CSSR official also expressed his country's desire to implement development projects in Iraq during the next stage and to increase trade exchange between the trwo countries.

It has been learned that the FRG and CSSR officials are visiting Baghdad to attend the Baghdad international fair.

SFRY Official Cited on Bilateral Trade Figures

JN0511211788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—During the past 9 months, Iraq exported to the SFRY commodities whose costs amounted to $249 million, while the costs of its imports from the SFRY in the same period amounted to $193.6 million.

This was announced to INA by Nada Spasic [name as received], the official in charge of SFRY-Iraqi trade relations. She added that oil heads the Iraqi exports to the SFRY. She went on to say that leather and other materials are second in Iraq's exports to the SFRY. She said that Iraq imports machines, machinery, construction tools and equipment, and other commodities and materials.

Spasic said that the SFRY hopes that there will be an increase in the volume of trade with Iraq and that opportunities will be utilized to contribute toward the renaissance and reconstruction in Iraq.

Spasic continued that the volume of the SFRY participation in this year's [Baghdad international] fair is large if compared with that of last year, as the number of the major companies contributing to this fair reached 41. She said that the items on display in the SFRY pavillion included sophisticated tools, machines, machinery, equipment, construction materials, and various electronic devices.

It is worth-recalling the the SFRY has been an unfailing participant in the Baghdad international fair since it was launched in 1964.

Irish Minister Arrives for Joint Economic Talks

JN0711133588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah conferred here today with Seamus Brennen, Ireland's minister of trade and marketing [name and title as received] and his delegation.

Attended by the Irish ambassador in Baghdad, the meeting dealt with bilateral ties in transport and communications.

The Irish minister arrived here earlier in the day on an official visit to Iraq to head his country's team to meetings of the fifth session of the Iraq-Ireland economic cooperation commission. The meetings have already started and the commission split into three subcommittees drawn from ministries in Iraq and Ireland.

Exports to Ireland $50 Million

JN0911181788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Iraq's exports to Ireland during the current year have amounted to $50 million.

This was disclosed to INA by Seamus Brennen, Irish minister of trade and marketing [name and title as received].

Brennen added that Iraq's exports to his country included dates, fertilizers, and oil; while its imports from Ireland included meat, foodstuffs, and medical equipment.

Brennen voiced satisfaction over the development and growth of the bilateral economic relations and referred to the role being played by the joint Iraqi-Irish committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation in enhancing and expanding this cooperation.

Minutes Signed; Minister Departs

JN1011124188 Baghdad INA in Arbic 1003 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Iraq and Ireland signed joint minutes here today at the end of the fifth session of the committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

According to the minutes, the two parties will work to promote their trade, financial, and economic relations and will intensify visits to Iraq by Irish businessmen and company representatives in order to contribute to the implementation of a number of Iraqi development projects. It was agreed that Ireland will increase the facilities extended to Iraq and to continue the scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The minutes were signed by Muhammad Hamzah, Iraqi transport and communications minister, and Seamus Brennan, Irish minister of trade and marketing [name and title as received]. The Irish minister and accompanying delegation left today following a 5-day visit. During the visit, the minister represented his country in the opening ceremony of the current session of Baghdad international fair.

Ramadan Receives Bulgarian Official 9 Nov

JN0911154888 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov, 9, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today received a written message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov.

The message deals with cooperation between the two countries and expressing satisfaction over their progress and also Bulgaria's desire to continue strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation in all fields. The message was conveyed by Mr. Andrey Lukanov, candidate member to the Bulgarian Communist party Politburo during a meeting with Mr. Ramadan here today.

Mr. Ramadan also received a written message from Mr. George Atansov, Bulgarian prime minister concerning dimensions of promoting bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan and Mr. Lukanov expressed satisfaction over the developed level of relations between the two countries and stressed that this cooperation will be expanded and diversified during the next stage.

Mr. Ramadan said that the Iraqi-Bulgarian relations witnessed distinguished development following the meeting between President Husayn and President Zhivkov.

Mr. Lukanov stressed readiness of Bulgarian firms to contribute to implementing new development projects in Iraq.

Bulgarian Official Departs

JN1011112888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0658 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Andrey Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today, concluding a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation held talks with a number of officials dealing with ways to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Industry Ministry Releases Export Figures

JN0611111088 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—Over the last three seasons of this year institutions of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization exported products worth 165,983,000 dollars.

A source at the Ministry said here today that the Ministry's exports for this year rose by 118 as received per cent compared to the corresponding period of last year when they hit the figure 98,212,000 dollars.

Chemical and metal industries came on the top of the list of products exported by the ministry followed by constructive, foodstuffs, textiles and then engineering industries.

Minister of Industry Confers With PDRY Counterpart

JN0611141088 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Mr. Husayn Kamil Hasan and Democratic Yemeni Minister of Trade, Industry and Supplies Mr. 'Abdallah 'Uthman today discussed here relations of bilateral industrial cooperation.

The two ministers focussed on cooperation in the areas of engineering, petrochemical, textile and metal industries.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Industry and Military Industrialization undersecretary and the ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Yemen in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Meets GDR, Jordanian Officials

JN0211212188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim met here today with Gerhard Tautenhahn, GDR minister of construction of general machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicles, who is on a visit to Iraq to attend the Baghdad international fair. During the meeting, they reviewed ways of strengthening cooperation between Iraqi and German oil companies.

The oil minister today also met with Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Jordanian Energy Ministry, and discussed ways to develop cooperation in the fields of oil and energy.

UN Plane Carrying Equipment Arrives 9 Nov

JN0911140188 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] A UN-chartered plane carrying technical equipment needed for the work of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group personnel working on the Iraqi side arrived in Baghdad today.

Ambassador Sees Baker Pursuing Shultz Policy
TA1011074188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Moshe Arad, ambassador to the United States, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you, Ambassador Arad.

[Arad] Good morning to you.

[Friedman] Yesterday Mr Bush said that James Baker will have to step into George Shultz' big shoes. You know that Shultz' shoes were so big that in the area of foreign policy they even covered President Reagan's feet.

Do you think that James Baker—a strong and dominant personality—will be the real boss of U.S. foreign policy for the next 4 years, as Shultz was in Reagan's administration?

[Arad] The Bush-Baker duo goes back a long way. Baker headed Bush's election campaign in 1980. In fact, they started cooperating many years earlier in Houston. There is no doubt in my mind that if there will be a central personality shaping the next administration's foreign policy, it will be James Baker.

[Dan] Is it possible to speak about a clear future line?

[Arad] I do not believe it is possible to say at this point; however, if I had to say what Bush's foreign policy will be, I would say that to a large extent it will be a continuation of the present policy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, NATO and other European countries, Japan, and probably Israel and the Middle East as well.

[Friedman] Shultz has been deeply involved in the Middle East issue recently; the Shultz initiative should be mentioned in this context. Do you think that Baker will pursue the Shultz initiative?

[Arad] He will follow Shultz, but very cautiously and slowly in the beginning. I cannot say that this will be the first issue on the U.S. foreign policy agenda when Bush takes office. They will probably want a period of time to study the issue.

Baker himself has not visited Israel and is not closely familiar with the details of the Middle East issue; I assume it will take him some time to study the issue. Perhaps they will appoint a special envoy who will come to the region and make recommendations to the new administration.

[Friedman] Shultz himself has on several occasions expressed his desire to serve in this capacity. Do you think Shultz may indeed conduct the main U.S. move in the Middle East under James Baker, the new secretary of state?

[Arad] I think it is too early to say who this envoy will be.

[Dan] Some people say that James Baker, thanks to his expertise in economic issues, will be much more involved in economic affairs and in the economic relations between the United States and Israel.

[Arad] I assume that here, too, he will follow the course set down by Shultz. We should not forget that Secretary of State Shultz was the man who initiated the economic aid that enabled the government to decide on the new economic policy in 1985 which helped us lick inflation.

Shultz was the one who enabled the government to make courageous decisions in this sphere by providing the aid. Baker has a lot of experience in this field, and I have no doubts that his voice will also be heard on economic issues and on the issue of aid to Israel.

[Friedman] Do you think that in the next few weeks, until the present administration finishes its term and the new one steps in, there will be a period of calm in Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Arad] To the best of my knowledge the present administration, which ends its term on January 20, does not plan any new political moves in our region; this is not the right time. Barring any unusual or spectacular events in our region, I do not think we will see any U.S. initiative in the near future. We will have to wait until the next administration enters office after January 20. Even then I do not think this issue will take priority in the new administration's political agenda.

Herzog Congratulates Bush; Notes 'Friendship'
TA0911123388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog sent a telegram to Vice President Bush congratulating him on his election. President Herzog writes that the Israeli people appreciate his long-standing friendship. The president further writes to the President-elect: We believe that under your leadership, the United States will expand its contribution to world freedom and cooperation.

'Official Circles' 'Pleased' With U.S. Elections
TA1011120188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Official circles here in Jerusalem are pleased with the results of the congressional elections which accompanied the U.S. Presidential contest. An analysis

of the results has shown that there has been an increase in the number of supporters of Israel in the Senate and a modest increase in the House of Representatives as well. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Official circles in Jerusalem note with approval that the new faces in the Senate include more nonsupporters [as heard] of Israel than senators less favorably disposed. The number of Jewish senators has increased from seven to nine, and on balance, Israel has gained from the reshuffling of key Senate positions that follows every election.

In the House of Representatives, the improvement from Israel's point of view has been more modest, but still gives grounds for a cautious optimism.

In the administration itself, President Bush's friendship for Israel is a matter of record. The new Secretary of State James Baker is not so well known. Baker, like Bush, is from Texas, with roots in the oil industry, which is regarded as pro-Arab. However, as the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem, Dr Alon Li'el, points out: Fears of this kind were voiced when George Shultz was appointed secretary of state, and they had proved to be groundless.

[Li'el] We know that Mr Baker is part of the team—or was part of the team—of the Reagan administration for 8 years. This was a very friendly administration toward Israel, and he, being a part of it, we believe agreed with the policies. We did not hear any different reactions of James Baker to the policy of Reagan and Shultz, and we have no reason to suspect that he will not follow the policy that will be adopted by next President Bush.

[Katzenell] Observers in Jerusalem note that with a Democratic majority and a strong pro-Israel component, the Congress will be able to block any initiative of the administration which causes apprehension in Israel. This is significant in the light of warnings in the past 24 hours that the Bush administration would not take kindly to excessively vigorous Israeli opposition to U.S. arms sales to Arab countries which the administration regards as moderate. [end recording]

AL-FAJR Commentary on New Administration

TA0911185588 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 9 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The New U.S. Administration and the Palestinian Problem"]

[Text] Despite the fact that the U.S. elections are not an ordinary event; despite the fact that after entering the White House in Washington the 41st U.S. President will be pulling many strings around the world during his 4 full years in office; and despite the fact that he will not necessarily follow the policies of the former president, we do not expect the new U.S. President to embark on an extraordinary act in this region, because he will be forced to spend many months leafing through old pages without doing anything serious.

The Middle East, however, is a blazing page which basically is exposed to even more conflagrations. Will the new U.S. President make do with reading old reports and wait for a suitable opportunity to launch another initiative concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem in the mode of previous U.S. presidents? Naturally all these initiatives are on U.S. shelves and the shelves of many concerned countries, covered with the dust of consecutive stages.

The new reality of the recent political developments in the region, as well as in the entire world, in fact goes beyond this traditional question and drives the new U.S. Administration toward a frank confrontation relating to its important interests, which now converge with the fate of a comprehensive and just peace in this region.

If previous U.S. Administrations were able to maintain those interests in the absence of peace, under cover of a series of impractical initiatives which reached deadlock and paralysis immediately upon their formulation, the new administration, as observers are noting, will find itself facing the decision: war or peace in the Middle East. Evidently any new war in this part of the world will destroy U.S. interests in the framework of the destruction that will include all the parties. It is also evident that a comprehensive and just peace will mean stability and progress for all the region's nations and for other nations of the world as well.

Rabin on PNC Session, Bush Victory

TA0911174388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The defense minister has said that even if the PNC session on Saturday calls for encouraging the uprising in the territories and declares Palestinian independence, these resolutions will be of no significance to Israel. Any attempt to use these resolutions in order to stage disturbances and violent riots would be crushed with great force, Rabin said. Our correspondent Haviva Roger points out that Rabin made these remarks during his call on General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the southern Lebanese army, at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Based on his acquaintance with George Bush during his term in office as Israel's ambassador to Washington, Mr Rabin believes that the new President will pursue his predecessor's policy and that relations with Israel will not change, particularly in the security sphere. Minister Rabin today sent a message of congratulations to Mr Bush on the occasion of his victory.

Peres: PNC-Declared State 'Legal Fiction'

TA0911120588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning briefed the Inner Cabinet on his ministry's preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council and its expected declaration of an independent Palestinian state. The Ministry believes the PNC will call for an international conference with the power to impose a settlement on Israel and a UN force to take over control of the territories from the Israeli army. The Foreign Ministry has been sending out position papers to all Israeli Embassies on how to react to these resolutions. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Foreign Ministry maintains that an independent Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not be viable for geographical, economic, and demographic reasons. It is not practical to cut off the territories from Jordan, the position papers argue, and they warn that such a state would have a natural affinity with the most extremist of the Arab countries and will be yet another base for international terrorism, like Syria, Lebanon, and Libya.

Any solution of the Middle East conflict must be based on demilitarization of the territories, the ministry says, and this can be achieved only in the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian solution. An independent state declared by the PNC would be a legal fiction, the Foreign Ministry believes, because it would have none of the attributes of a state—neither a defined territory nor the ability to enforce international norms of behavior on its subjects. Its sole purpose would be to bring international pressure on Israel.

The Foreign Ministry papers quote recent declarations by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and other PLO leaders showing that the adoption of UN Resolution 181 and the declaration of a Palestinian state in the territories are seen as a stage on the way to the conquest of the whole of Palestine, including Israel in its pre-1967 borders.

Shomron on PNC Session, 'Uprising,' IDF

TA0911152688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of staff believes the uprising in the territories has exhausted its ability to get rioters out on the streets. During a tour of Nabulus, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told our correspondent Arye Gus that the PNC session and the call on the inhabitants to stage demonstrations is the PLO's last attempt to breathe life into the uprising. The chief of staff told soldiers that their current mission is to prevent the demonstrations expected to take place soon and to secure free travel on the roads. There is a general strike in the territories today.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 8 November adds: "The chief of staff believes that as far as the uprising in the territories is concerned we are currently at a crossroads. Lt Gen Shomron said: When the inhabitants realize that the PNC resolutions have no value beyond being mere words and that there is no possibility of acting on them, not even in terms of staging demonstrations, I suppose they will understand that the suffering they are bringing upon themselves is unnecessary."]

Herzog Communique Says Moledet Nondiscriminatory

TA0911205388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The stands held by Moledet Movement Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi must not be compared with the racist opinions which the Supreme Court has declared illegal [in disqualifying the Kakh Movement from running for the 12th Knesset]. This is the content of the communique issued by President Hayim Herzog's Bureau tonight, after the president's meeting with Moledet representatives in the framework of his consultations with parties regarding the forming of a new government.

The president explains that the concepts embraced by the Moledet Movement do not include the discrimination of Israeli citizens. Mr Herzog believes that since the transfer proposition proffered by Moledet to Arabs demands the consent of both sides, it is devoid of any element of coercion.

NRP Threatens To Stop Negotiations With Likud

TA1011054188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] As the coalition contacts continue, the National Religious Party [NRP] has threatened to stop all negotiations with Likud. The head of the NRP team, Rabbi Yitzhaq Levi, told the Prime Minister's Office last night his party would stop all contacts immediately if in fact the Likud has signed an agreement with the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party. This, he said, would contradict the Likud pledge to notify other potential coalition partners before reaching any such agreements. NRP leaders said Prime Minister Shamir had promised them that he would first straighten out the issue of all portfolios before signing agreements with particular parties.

Representatives of Degel Hatora met yesterday with members of Center-Shinuy, the Citizens Rights Movement, and MAPAM. The parties announced that they were prepared to work together on issues of security and peace, as well as on coexistence between the religious and secular populations.

2 SLA Men Wounded by Mine in Security Zone

TA1011113688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were wounded this morning when an SLA force struck a mine during a routine patrol on the northern edge of the central sector of the security zone, according to a report from our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz.

Police Block Settlement Attempt in W. Bank

TA1011113288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A Border Police and police force prevented Gush Emunim settlers from establishing a new settlement on (Mount 'Azrar) in the Judaean hills. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Gush Emunim people brought four 4 temporary structures to the site. They are currently being evacuated to Har Adar. The settlers planned to establish a new settlement 3 km from the settlement of Nataf in the Judaean hills.

General Strike Marks 12th Month of 'Uprising'

Strikes, IDF Raids Continue

TA1011112988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Nov 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Joel Greenberg]

[Text] A three-year-old boy was killed in Gaza and 10 other residents of the Strip were shot and injured yesterday during a day of violence which marked the beginning of the 12th month of the intifada [uprising].

Shops were closed and traffic came to a standstill throughout the territories as residents staged a general strike in answer to calls from the Unified Leadership of the Uprising and the Islamic Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The IDF reacted by clamping a curfew on all the refugee camps, restricting the movement of some 300,000 people.

In the West Bank, troops continued raids on villages and towns, making scores of arrests and ordering residents to erase nationalist graffiti and remove Palestinian flags. Palestinians reported four persons wounded in clashes with troops; the IDF had no reports of wounded.

The raids, carried out daily throughout the week, are intended to preempt protests prior to Saturday's opening of the Palestine National Council session in Algiers.

The IDF is building up its forces in the territories in expectation of increased unrest during the PNC meeting. Palestinians reported that schools in Nabulus and other communities have been taken over by troops and turned into temporary bases.

Gazan sources said that 3-year-old Usamah Ahmad Abu Ghanima was playing in the street when older children began cursing and throwing stones at an IDF patrol. The troops opened fire, killing the child and wounding 12-year-old Ri'ad Jundia and 13-year-old Zi'ad Halass.

The IDF spokesman confirmed that troops had shot and wounded three "locals," and said he was examining the circumstances of the boy's death. The family snatched the body to prevent an autopsy, the spokesman said, and this would make the investigation of his death more difficult.

In a clash in Al-Nusayrat, Border Policemen shot and wounded 17-year-old Khamis Abu Najih. Palestinian sources said he had stepped out of his house—despite the curfew—to go to a neighbour's home when the Border Policemen appeared and fired without warning. Abu Najih was in serious condition at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, the Palestinian sources said.

The IDF spokesman confirmed that a resident of Al-Nusayrat had been shot and wounded by a plastic bullet, but said he did not know the circumstances.

Troops and Palestinians also clashed in other areas of the Strip where Palestinians threw stones and blocked roads with burning tires. In Gaza, another three Arabs were shot; in 'Abasan al-Kabira near Khan Yunus one resident was shot in the back; at Jabalyah village one man was shot; and near Bayt Hanun two teenagers were wounded.

Palestinian sources in the West Bank said a 12-year-old boy was wounded in the leg in the Tulkarm refugee camp, two youths were wounded at the Balatah refugee camp, and another youth was wounded at Artas, south of Bethlehem. The IDF said the youth hospitalized at Tulkarm had been wounded Tuesday.

Residents of the old city of Nabulus continued to complain about soldiers entering homes, beating up occupants, vandalizing furniture and ransacking closets. In one reported incident, soldiers forced their way into the home of Fadil Rial Tuesday night, breaking down doors, smashing furniture and tearing pictures. Jordanian dinars were reported missing from the home after the soldiers left.

Military sources said no complaints had been received from residents, but the IDF was looking into the reports.

The Civil Administration demolished homes in several West Bank villages on grounds that they were built without a permit. Palestinian sources put the number of demolitions at about 20, including six homes at Biddiya, west of Nabulus, six at Al-'Ayzariyah, near Jerusalem, and others at Nahallin and Husan, near Bethlehem. The adminstration said eight homes were destroyed.

At the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp in Nabulus, residents said troops using a gravel-thrower broke the windows of several homes. The IDF said the machine was used to disperse youths who had hurled stones at troops. Protesters set up barricades and hurled stones at troops in other parts of Nabulus, and soldiers responded with tear gas, local sources said.

A soldier was lightly injured in the head last night when stonethrowers shattered the windows of an Egged bus travelling through Shu'fat in north Jerusalem.

Housing Demolition To Continue

TA0911125588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The township of Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle has calmed down and the police have left the area. This was reported by our correspondent Yafa Glick. This afternoon, youths erected roadblocks and threw stones at policemen to protest the demolition of 15 structures. The prime minister's deputy adviser on Arab affairs today reported that the policy of demolishing illegally built houses will continue despite the 2 days of disturbances in the township.

Curfew on Al-Shaja'iyah

TA1011113888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The IDF today imposed a curfew on the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood, where the 3-year-old boy was killed yesterday afternoon. The curfew was imposed to enable a thorough investigation into the boy's death. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, today warned the residents of the Gaza Strip against creating disturbances. The warning was given on the eve of the convening of the PNC on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Updated Casualty Toll Reported

TA0911130488 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 9 Nov 88 p 8

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 7 November, the 335th day of the intifada [uprising] IDF spokesman reported a total of 237 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. The number does not include people killed by settlers' fire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinians killed in the occupied territories is 325.

Palestinian sources, however, report 414 Palestinian casualties, according to the following breakdown:

—276 dead by IDF and settlers' fire;

—65 dead by gas inhalation;

—36 killed by beatings and electrocution;

—37 dead from other causes.

Protest Lodged Over Qaddumi Visit to Tokyo

TA0611073388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Israel has protested to Japan over a private visit by Faruq Qaddumi, one of the PLO leaders, in Tokyo. Qaddumi will confer with the Japanese foreign minister. Our ambassador conferred with Japanese Foreign Ministry officials on the matter. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Japan protested three times in recent weeks over IDF actions in putting down the riots in the territories.

Drugs Smuggled in From Lebanon Seized

TA0511082688 [Editorial Report]

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 30 October reports that "since the beginning of the year, Galilee police have confiscated some 15 kg of heroin" smuggled from Lebanon by "extreme Shi'ite groups" who claim that "their spiritual leaders" say that "distributing a potentially fatal drug is permitted when dealing with the Zionist enemy" to attain the goal of "destroying the Israeli society."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 31 October reports that the Norwegian Defense Ministry in Oslo reported that a 21-year old "Norwegian UN soldier stationed in southern Lebanon was detained in Metulla while attempting to smuggle 500 grams of heroin into Israel."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 3 November reports that "western Galilee police have captured more than 1 kg of Persian cocaine near Kibbutz Lohame Hageta'ot" smuggled "apparently" from Lebanon. "Two drug dealers trying to smuggle the cocaine in their car were caught on election day," 1 November.

Foreign Currency Reserves Up $818 Million

TA0311113388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Nov 88 p 9

[Report by Pinhas Landau]

[Excerpt] Israel's foreign currency reserves rose by $818 million in October, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday. But, to the money markets, that seemingly strong jump spelled a fall of $382m. last month, maintaining the sharp downward trend of the last several months.

The resolution of these conflicting numbers lies in the fact that a few days ago the U.S. government transferred the $1.2 billion of civilian aid to Israel for the fiscal year

1988/89 that began on October 1. Since the foreign currency reserves rose by less than this amount, the markets treated October's figures as a fall.

Nevertheless, at $5.012b., Israel's foreign currency reserves are at near-record levels, and provide the government a protective cushion in the face of the steady rundown of reserves caused by private currency.

Bank of Israel officials noted yesterday that the government had not drawn on the country's reserves last month to repay foreign debt, as its had in previous months, and thus the entire difference between the $1.2b. received and the $818m. rise actually announced—a difference of $382m.—represented currency purchases by firms and others in the private sector. [passage omitted]

Labor Productivity Rises in 1987
TA0711102488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 88 p 8

[Report by Labor Affairs correspondent Jeff Black]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—Overall production and productivity in the economy grew last year, according to a report drawn up by the Israel Institute of Productivity released yesterday. Production was up 7 percent in the non-public service sector as a whole, with labour productivity registering a 3.5 percent increase. In industry, labour productivity jumped 4.5 percent after 15 years years of stagnation. Total factor productivity for the non-public service sector in 1987 showed a 3.5 percent rise. [passage omitted]

Compared with other countries, the Israeli worker produces nearly as much as his Swedish or Japanese counterparts, when the value of the goods produced is weighted according to local purchasing power. Under an index of gross domestic product per worker in purchasing parities compiled by the institute, the Israeli worker produces $25,200 worth of goods compared with the Swede's $25,700 and the Japanese worker's $26,000. Workers in the U.S., meanwhile, produce $38,200 worth of goods. These statistics are based on 1986 figures. [passage omitted]

Tourist Arrivals Decline in October
TA0911112888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 88 p 9

[Report by David Rosenberg]

[Excerpt] Tourist arrivals continued at their depressed levels last month, despite a noticeable upswing in the number of people coming to Israel by cruise ship, figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics show.

The bureau reported that 103,800 people came to Israel in October, 19.6 percent fewer than at the same time last year and a sharper fall than the cumulative decline of the first 10 months of the year. For the January-November period, the number of arrivals was off 14 percent to 996,200. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Scientists Visit To Discuss Project
TA0811111588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Freidler]

[Excerpt] Haifa—A delegation of nine Egyptian marine scientists has arrived here for a week-long visit to discuss the joint research project they are carrying out with their Israeli counterparts.

The project was started eight years ago under U.S. auspices, to foster joint applied research into problems of interest to the two countries. These include shoreline protection, marine food production, waste-water recycling and the management of lakes and water resources. [passage omitted]

Health Ministry Declares Polio Outbreak Over
TA0911113188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by health reporter]

[Text] The polio outbreak, which infected 12 people, has now ended, the Health Ministry declared yesterday. Five weeks have passed since the last case was diagnosed.

In the past three weeks, 3.2 million Israelis, in addition to those vaccinated in the IDF, have been given vaccines. The immunization of more than a million Arabs in the territories is nearly complete.

Yesterday's conference at Tel Hashomer Hospital, which summed up the polio outbreak, was attended by representatives of 56 authorities and agencies who received ministry certificates for their participation in the campaign. Altogether, 3,000 public health nurses and volunteers took part in the vaccination effort.

To date, not a single person has come down with paralytic polio from the vaccine itself, according to Dr. Paul Slater, the ministry's chief epidemiologist. But, since the disease can be contracted up to 60 days after immunization, the zero figure is not yet final, he said.

Three additional persons were diagnosed as having polio earlier this year, before the outbreak that began at the end of August.

The ministry says that the virulent polio virus is no longer in the sewage, but other viruses and dangerous bacteria, including hepatitis B (which in the long term can result in liver cancer), are present.

Leaders Congratulate Bush on Election Victory

Husayn Cables Congratulations

JN0911190188 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to George Bush congratulating him on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections. His majesty the king expressed hope that the coming period will witness more U.S. interest in regional issues to consolidate peace in the world and particularly in the Middle East to bring about a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace to achieve stability in the region and security and peace for its peoples. His majesty wished George Bush success in leading the American people toward further success and prosperity.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, also sent a cable to U.S. President-elect George Bush in which he congratulated him on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections. His highness wished Bush success in his coming mission as President of the United States and wished the American people further progress and prosperity.

Al-Khasawinah Welcomes Victory

JN0911191888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In Amman, Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has welcomed George Bush's victory in the U.S. presidential elections. In a statement to AFP, Al-Khasawinah expressed the hope that Bush will be able to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He expressed hope that the U.S. President-elect will work to achieve the aspirations of the Middle East peoples for a real, just peace in light of his expertise in international affairs, despite the lack of balance in the U.S. stand in past years on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Washington's failure to use its influence on Israel to convene an international peace conference.

The information minister noted the ties of friendship between His Majesty King Husayn and Bush and the President-elect's knowledge of the constructive role played by Jordan in the Middle East.

Reportage on Visit of Greek Foreign Minister

Makes Arrival Statement

JN0911133188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of EEC Foreign Ministers' Council, arrived in Amman today at the head of an official delegation on a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with a number of senior officials. He will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri which will deal with issues of mutual concern, developments in the region, and means to strengthen relations between the two friendly countries.

The Greek minister expressed pleasure at visiting Jordan. He said that his visit has special significance because it comes while the region is passing through important developments and because he chairs the EEC Foreign Ministers Council for the current session. He pointed out that the EEC foreign ministers are as interested as he is in the region's issues. He also said that his country highly praises Jordan's continuous efforts to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. He asserted his country's adherence to its principled stands which support the issues and interests of the Arab countries.

He said that his country's stands on the Middle East crisis, particularly the Palestinian cause, are well known and that his country plays a main, leading role among the members states [of the EEC]. He said that the opinions and viewpoints of Greece had a clear influence in the stands included in all official statements issued by the EEC on the Middle East issue. Papoulias added that his country, which has distinguished historic relations with Arab countries, seeks to make the EEC contribute toward finding a just solution to the crisis in the region in the shortest possible time.

The Greek foreign minister and accompanying delegation were received at Queen Alia International Airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian ambassador in Athens, Greek ambassador, and EEC representative in Amman.

Visits Crown Prince

JN0911181188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of Foreign Ministers. His highness explained to the guest minister the bases and dimensions of the Jordanian position on the most important issues of the region, especially the Palestine question and Lebanon. He noted the need to intensify international efforts to find a just, comprehensive, and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed the importance of the EC's past role through the Venice Declaration. He also stressed the need to revive this initiative and to add to it through the EC and its current chairmanship—assumed by Greece.

His highness noted that the world is awaiting clear political stands by the PLO on the Palestine question—stands reflecting the Palestinian people's interests and aiming to regain these people's legitimate rights over their land. He said Jordan's decision to disengage its

legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank is aimed at preventing duality and highlighting and entrenching the Palestinian identity.

His highness the crown prince, the regent, affirmed to the guest minister that Jordan is exerting serious efforts with the area's states and the entire world to find a comprehensive and imminent solution to the Lebanese problem to restore to Lebanon its security, stability, and sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the Court minister, the foreign minister, the director of the Middle East Department and the director of protocol at the Greek Foreign Ministry. The meeting was also attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Greece and the Greek ambassador to Jordan.

Talks With Counterpart

JN0911204888 Amman Telvision Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] A round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon between the Jordanian side led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Greek side led by Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of foreign ministers. The two sides reviewed developments in the Middle East and new developments in the world.

Al-Masri explained to the guest minister Jordan's stand on the ongoing efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem through the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Jordan side appealed to Greece, in its capacity as present chairman of the EC, to exert efforts and hold contacts with the concerned parties to accelerate consultations among the five permanent members of the Security Council according to the bases that gained world consensus.

Al-Masri praised Greece's constructive and positive role and its positive policy on the Arab issues.

For his part, Karolos Papoulias affirmed his country's desire to play an effective role to convene an international peace conference through its chairmanship of the EC and in light of its positive stands on the Arab issues. He praised the cordial relations between Jordan and Greece. He also expressed his admiration for the wise policy followed by His Majesty King Husayn and the role played by Jordan in the world.

The talks were attended by the Greek delegation accompanying the minister, the Greek ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior Jordanian officials from the Foreign Ministry.

'Senior' Official on PLO 'Positive Attitude'

NC0611162488 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Amman, Nov 6 (AFP)—Jordan wants the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to refrain from hardening its position if the right-wing Likud bloc of Yitzhaq Shamir assumes power in Israel, a senior Jordanian official said Sunday. The official, who asked not to be identified, told AFP that Jordan wanted the PLO to maintain a "positive attitude" at a scheduled meeting in Algiers on November 12 of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. Any hardening of positions, he warned, "would not be in the interest of the Palestinian cause." [passage omitted]

Jordan and Egypt have counselled the PLO to stress the political rather than the geographical provisions of Resolution 181, maintaining that a latter U.N. Resolution 242, should be used to define the territorial limits of the Palestinian state, according to the Jordanian official.

The latter resolution acknowledges the boundaries of Israel prior to the 1907 Middle East war and calls for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories seized in the conflict.

The official stressed the importance of Resolution 242 and said its formal recognition by the PLO would have "a positive influence on peace efforts and would guarantee the support of the major powers." [passage omitted]

Army Commander Receives PRC Militay Commander

JN0611190388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received in his office at the General Command this morning General (Chian Chu Li), commander of the Chinese military region of (Takin). They reviewed the situation in the region. The guest conveyed to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces the greetings of the Chinese defense minister and his eagerness to strengthen ties and cooperation between the two friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; members of the accompanying delegation; and the Chinese ambassador in Amman.

The guest and the military delegation accompanying him heard a military briefing on the organisation, duties, and tasks of the Armed Forces. The chief of staff was present.

The Chinese general and the accompanying delegation arrived in Amman this morning on a several day official visit during which he will meet with a number of officials and visit a number of military units and cultural sites in the Kingdom.

Trade, Industry Minister Views Industrial Future

JN0811182988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Irbid—Minister of Trade and Industry Hamdi al-Tabba' said that the decisions issued by the government recently impose on all of us changes in some aspects of our lifestyle based on clinging to a show of affluence. In a lecture delivered at Yarmuk University this evening, he added that the government had marked these decisions for immediate execution and started to execute them on its organs, establishments, and those working there to set an example for others.

He said: These decisions have added to the support of basic goods and services, which the majority of the populace will benefit from. Proceding from economic integration and intermingling, the government resorted to a number of decisions and implementation of a batch of economic measures that might seem very harsh to some but that in fact are just and merciful because they will lead to making the burden of the national economy and deficit in the balance of payments lighter. They will also decrease the deficit in the general state budget and provide a quantity of foreign currency, which will affect the national economy's strength.

He indicated that the government's subsidies to all the supply goods will not be affected. In addition, raising customs on some luxury goods will contribute to limiting unjustified affluence and increase our foreign currency savings.

He affirmed that the demand for the projects available in our country is part and parcel of the new revival that should prevail in our society through rejecting the consumerist behavior that makes the individual, from all walks of life, a nonproductive person—eating without working and consuming without producing.

He said that Jordan enjoys characteristics in the field of investment in agricultural industries stemming from its central location in the Arab region and the nearness of its land, sea, and air borders to the regional and European markets. This facilitates exporting agricultural products to them, in addition to having the fertile land of the Jordan Valley, characterized by its unique weather for agricultural products.

He called for proceding from the stage of transformational industries, which depend on importing basic products and the machinery to produce them, to the stage of basic industries, which depend on locally produced raw materials and machines and organs that are also locally manufactured.

Phosphate Official on Production, Joint Projects

JN0511103388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Nov 88 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Wasif 'Azar, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, by a number of AL-DUSTUR staff writers—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-DUSTUR: You have said that the expected production for 1988 is 6 million tonnes. What is the expected size of exports, and what is your assessment of the price of phosphate in the international market? Has it begun to rise?

'Azar: Exports by the Phosphate Mines Company have been moving upwards since 1983. The past 6 years ahve witnessed constant increases in exports. Last year we exported 5.4 million tonnes. We expect exports to reach more than 5.5 million tonnes this year, an increase over last year.

We could have exported 5.8 million tonnes this year, but the transport situation over the past 3 months made it difficult for us to meet the orders of our clients. In fact, our exports last month reached 596,000 tonnes.

We export to more than 30 countries. Our main markets are in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean countries, Canada, and Mexico. We hope to maintian our continuous presence in the markets of the countries with manufacturing means. We are interested in having Jordanian phosphate present so that these countries become aquainted with its properties and, consequently, manufacture the appropriate machines for it. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: Would you give us some clarification on the industrial complex on which negotiations are being held with Indian and Soviet quarters?

'Azar: There are studies with the government and some Indian companies to establish phosphoric acid industries with a production capacity that might reach 2,000 tonnes daily, that is, approximately twice the output of the industrial complex in Al-'Aqabah. Specialized quarters in the Soviet Union are studying the economic and technical feasibility of a joint project to produce normal and concentrated phosphoric acid for export to the Soviet Union.

In addition to this, the company is currently studying projects to be implemented with and established in Pakistan, using Jordanian raw materials. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister General 'Awn Cables Bush

NC0911173788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has sent a cable to U.S. President-elect George Bush, congratulating him for winning the U.S. presidential election. Gen 'Awn said the election of Bush places the new administration in a better position to tackle international issues, particularly the Middle East problem, in order to end its influence on Lebanon, so the latter might regain its democracy and assume its proper role.

Al-Huss Congratulates Bush

NC0911184388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has cabled U.S. Preasident-elect George Bush, congratulating him on his victory in the presidential election. Al-Huss expressed hope the United States will be able to give an impetus to world peace, to help liberate Lebanon from the Israeli occupation, and to pave the way for a just and durable peace in the Middle East, proceeding from the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and homeland.

The prime minister noted the Lebanese people's suffering and the gravity of the dangers threatening their future as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of parts of their land. He hoped the U.S. Administration will adhere to the course of justice and respect for human rights and will pressure Israel to stop its aggression and terminate its occupation of Lebanese territory.

Al-Khatib Accepts Appointment; 'Awn Comments

NC0911173188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Army Commander-designate Staff Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib has issued the following communique:

I thank the Council of Ministers for its precious confidence in my person, which National Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran displayed by assigning me to command the Army for as long as this post remains vacant. I appreciate with patriotic conscience the gravity of the responsibility, the magnitude of the task, and the nobility of the aim of this resolution. I vow to the esteemed Council of Ministers, the great and patient Lebanese people, who are suffering from a great predicament, and my comrades in arms wherever they may be on Lebanese soil, that I will devote myself, my blood, and all of my experience, knowledge, and potential to carry out this noble mission to preserve the unity of the Army and the homeland, acting upon the directives and patronage of the country's political authority.

I hope I will have the assistance of all active figures, foremost of whom are members of the esteemed Council of Ministers and all the dedicated key figures. The Lebanese Army should assume its natural role in preserving the public's security and dignity and national security in general. I also hope to raise the Army's standards in organization, equipment, and readiness within the framework of an integrated national plan that will perpetuate the Army's Lebanese and Arab identity and national and pan-Arab role, as well as the entire homeland's genuine pan-Arab affiliation.

However, General Michel 'Awn has declined to comment on former Chamber of Deputies Speaker 'Usayran's decision to appoint Brig Gen al-Khatib Army commander. 'Awn has noted that he had defined his stand toward this measure before it was effected. It is recalled that Gen 'Awn had considered the commissioning of any officer to lead the Army a partitionist step, which aims to undermine the Army's unity along with the unity of the legitimate government.

Lebanese Forces Oppose Al-Khatib Appointment

NC1011090188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Citing an official source in the Lebanese Forces, the newspaper AL-DIYAR says this morning that the step taken by the Al- Sana'i' grouping [Al-Huss government] of appointing Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib as acting Army commander will have negative repercussions on the general situation in Lebanon. This is because it is bound to torpedo the undeclared truce to which all the parties to the conflict had earlier committed themselves to create the proper atmosphere for resumption of suspended contacts and election of a new president for the Republic.

The source noted this step came at a time when information leaked that high-level contacts involving Arab, European, and UN parties are under way to hold presidential elections. This step is an attempt to frustrate those contacts.

The Lebanese Forces source also noted the Syrians have taken advantage of the Arab indecision that has emerged recently with regard to the Lebanese issue. This comes after some Arab parties had played an effective role in the pacification process as a prelude to crystallizing solutions conducive to the holding of presidential elections. The source said this behavior by the Syrians indicates they are not seriously considering the Arab initiatives. The Syrians give a positive impression to the authors of these initiatives while in fact they behave in an extremely negative manner.

The source said that the most painful aspect in the Al-Sana'i' grouping's step is that it has been declared by one of the men who attained independence for Lebanon. It is as if the Syrians are trying, 45 years after Lebanon won independence, to have the only living participant in

that achievement announce the end of this independence. Or it is as if the Syrians, after 45 years of Lebanese independence, are wreaking vengeance on the last living participant.

The official source in the Lebanese Forces said it is clear Syria's firm policy on Lebanon is to completely dominate Lebanon and, if possible, to annex it to Syria. Otherwise Syria would dominate the areas it is now occupying and annex them through its Lebanese tools.

The source said: Which one of us believes that 'Adil 'Usayran, out of his own free will, would declare such a step as that which he declared yesterday, or that Salim al-Huss, also of his own free will, would approve of this step; or any other Muslim Lebanese leader would agree to such a step?

The source added: When we rejected the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the Syrian-appointed president for Lebanon, we meant it because we refused to be Syrian tools. We also realized that what former Speaker 'Usayran, Prime Minister al-Huss, and many Lebanese leaders in the occupied territories have been doing without conviction, we would have been forced to do the same had we accepted a Syrian-appointed president in B'abda Palace.

The Lebanese Forces official source concluded by saying: As long as this Syrian logic is prevalent, the war could last 100 years.

Army Personnel Prevented From Leaving W. Beirut

NC1011125988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Syrian partitionist measures have begun to materialize on the ground: Acting on orders from Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, 6th Brigade personnel manning the Al-'Ijjah-Al-Barbir roadblock have prevented military personnel of various ranks from leaving West Beirut for the eastern area to join their work centers.

Likewise, leftist groups manning the Al-Barbir roadblock today prevented all the public security employees of various ranks from leaving West Beirut to attend to their work at the general headquarters of the public security forces in the Al-'Adliyah area [Palace of Justice in Beirut].

Lahd Rumored Dead; Resistance Operations Noted

NC0911180788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpts] People arriving from the occupied border strip, who were able to infiltrate into the liberated areas today, have said that agent Antoine Lahd's condition is worsening and noted there is talk in the border areas confirming he has died of his wounds, adding this will not be revealed for several days at the request of the Israeli military and political leadership. These arrivals managed to pass through the Zumrayya crossing, which was reopened to pedestrians today after a number of enemy intelligence officers arrived at the point to supervise [word indistinct] operations.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces continued the siege of heroine Suha Bisharah's town, Dayr Mimis, after they blew up her house and closed most of the crossing gates. [passage omitted]

Suha Bisharah's father today called for the release of his daughter and demanded international intervention to assist her. Fawwaz Bisharah said to REUTER: I hope there will be international intervention to assist her and that she will not be harmed.

Meanwhile, resistance men continued their operations against the enemy forces and their agents. The Lebanese National Resistance Front has announced that Suha Bisharah's comrades have carried out a concentrated attack against a position jointly held by the enemy and its agents in Saff al-Hawa' in the Bint Jubayl district.

In addition, the Israeli siege of the border town of Markabah continues for the 22d day amid reports of deteriorating living conditions in the town. Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan pursued his contacts with officials on the town's status and on ways to pressure enemy forces to lift their siege.

SLA Commander Lahd Remains Unconscious

NC1011084388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A military source in the South Lebanese Army has affirmed that the health of Staff Major General Antoine Lahd is quickly improving and that he is convalescing in Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The source indicated that all reports to the contrary are untrue.

The hospital administration has indicated that Maj Gen Lahd's health is improving. One of the doctors treating Lahd noted that Lahd's blood pressure has stabilized. He expressed hope Maj Gen Lahd will leave the recovery room in a matter of days.

The head of the intensive care section in the Israeli Rambam Hospital has expressed hope that Maj Gen Lahd will regain consciousness in 3 days' time.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited the hospital yesterday and reassured himself about Maj Gen Lahd's condition.

Lahd 'Constantly Improving'

NC1011082988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] According to southern sources, the health of General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, is constantly improving. Citing Rambam Hospital in Israel, the sources said Gen Lahd's improving condition will allow him to leave the hospital in a few days.

Junblatt Reportedly Ordered Abduction of Banker

NC1011155688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Banks will observe a general strike tomorrow to protest the continued detention of Shaykh Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Board of Directors and director general of the Al-Madinah Bank, and other bank employees. According to an exclusive report by the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY, Abu 'Ayyash is being held by the PSP and was kidnapped on orders from Walid Junblatt.

The same report states that Junblatt demanded a sum of 20 million pounds in return for freeing Abu 'Ayyash and that negotiations resulted in an agreement to release the captive in return for a payment of $2 million, to be made by his brother 'Adnan Abu 'Ayyash, on condition that the captive be handed over on board an aircraft at Beirut Airport. At the agreed time, however, Junblatt reneged on his promise.

Amal Denies Fighting in Southeast Sidon Area

NC0911181788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Amal Movement's Information Bureau in the South has denied reports carried by some media on violent clashes and renewed fighting on the southeast Sidon combat lines. In a statement issued today, the bureau urged the media to seek accuracy and truth in their reports, particularly at this fateful stage. The bureau reasserted the Amal Movement's previous stand which rejects the resumption of fighting.

Amal, Palestinian Groups Agree to Cease-Fire

LD0911185588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov 9 (KUNA)—Palestinian groups and the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal Movement, which have fought fierce battles in the past two years, Wednesday agreed to an overall ceasefire and conciliation talks, a KUNA telephone report from south Lebanon said. The ceasefire accord which went into effect immediately was reached following intensive talks between representatives of the two sides Wednesday in the southern port city of Sidon, the report said.

Under the agreement Amal and Palestinian fighters would observe the ceasefire in eastern Sidon, the scene of savage fighting between the two sides in the autumn of 1986. Wednesday's talks were apparently prompted by sporadic fighting in the area during the past two weeks. The two sides agreed to exchange prisoners and to keep their meeting open-ended to consolidate the accord, the report said.

Amal, which incessantly tried to evict Palestinian fighters from Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, has ceased its attacks on the camps since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza last December. It said at the time the gesture was in show of solidarity against the common enemy, Israel.

2 SLA Members Injured in Explosion

NC1011113488 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] An explosive device detonated while a South Lebanese Army patrol was passing on the Kafr Fumman-'Arab Salim Road this morning, injuring two soldiers. The patrol searched the area immediately after the explosion.

Al-Asad Congratulates Bush on Election Victory
JN1011155488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1453 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 10 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad today sent a cable of congratulations to George Bush on his election as President of the United States of America.

In his cable, President al-Asad expressed good wishes for Bush and the American people. He praised the role of the United States, given that it is a UN Security Council permanent representative, in the work for world peace, resolving problems that threaten peace, and establishing peoples' right to self-determination.

The president hoped that the United States will play this role according to the UN Charter. He also hoped that Syrian-U.S. relations will be promoted to the benefit of the two peoples and in the interest of the achievement of peace and justice in the world.

Romania's Dascalescu Meets With Al-Asad, Al-Zu'bi
JN0811194488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] At 1700 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. Dascalescu conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. His excellency the president accepted these greetings and asked him to convey similar greetings to President Ceausescu and the Romanian people.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the international situation, and the regional situation. They affirmed that the stands of Syria and Romanian on the importance of understanding among people and the preservation of world peace were identical. They also reviewed the existing bilateral economic cooperation and its future prospects. They also stressed the importance of expanding this cooperation through exploring future projects and implementing them in the interests of the two countries.

Talks Conclude
JN0911202888 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The final round of official talks between the Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the Romanian side, headed by Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, was held this evening at the Prime Ministry. Members of both delegations attended.

During this session, there was a review of the results of the two sides' talks in the technical committees and the joint meetings, which approved different aspects of cooperation in the future and discussed horizons to broaden this cooperartion and projects in all activities that were agreed upon. They also discussed what has been approved about the final completion of the implemented projects and the time and material programs set for each of these projects.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi confirmed the common positive spirit that distinguished the meetings that dealt with all fields of cooperation between the two friendly countries. He referred to the continuous efforts and the dynamism that distinguished the meetings to strengthen the positive results achieved and entrench them to implement new projects in the future. He asserted both sides' concern for joint action to improve the level of bilateral relations in the economic, trade, technical fields until they reach the excellent level of political relations between the two countries, within the framework of the directives of Presidents Nicolae Ceausescu and Hafiz al-Asad.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi praised the great achievements accomplished in Romania under the leadership of President Ceausescu. On his part, Romanian prime minister refered to the great substance included in his short visit to Syria and its meaning and extent in the present and future. He expressed his satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere that prevailed over all meetings betweeen the two sides. He pointed out that this visit strengthened the spirit of true friendship that connects the two peoples and countries.

Dascalescu highly praised the great achievements in Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that his country is interested in developing and bolstering ties of cooperation in all fields with Syria so that they can achieve the level of their excellent political relations, the foundations for which were laid by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Romanian-Syrian joint committee, chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, and its subcommittees this morning continued its meetings. During these meetings, discussion dealt with the projects implemented through joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields of oil, industry, and land reclamation. A number of measures were taken to complete and implement all remaining matters in all of these projects.

The committee then presented methods and means to develop economic, trade, and technical relations. The joint committee also studied cooperation between the two sides to establish projects in the field of basic and transformation industries, and in the fields of processing

of raw materials and manufucture of agricultural equipment and other fields. The future working plan was set for what has to be achieved during the coming years in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

National Front Reviews Political Situation 9 Nov

JN1011101288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1900 yesterday under Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the Republic and deputy chairman of the NPF.

During this meeting, a review was made of the political situation in the region as well as the attempts being made to peddle capitulationist plans and subjugate the Arab nation to the imperialist and Israeli schemes based on expansion and the occupation of more Arab territories.

The meeting also reviewed the conspiracy to which Lebanon is being subjected. This conspiracy aims to partition Lebanon and turn it into entities which serve the Zionist movement's objectives in collusion with the isolationist, Zionized forces in Lebanon and some fascist Arab regimes.

The NPF Central Command highly appreciated Syria's efforts under President Struggler Hafiz al-Asad to raise the Arab nation up to the level of the fateful challenges facing it and also to confront the conspiracies against it and prevent the enemies from realizing their goals. The NPF Central Command viewed these efforts as an expression of the Arab nation's will and its aspiration for regaining its rights and protecting its pan-Arab security.

The Central Command greeted our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories on the occasion of entering its 12th month. It also called on all conscientious, honorable forces to further support this uprising in the face of criminal Zionist attempts designed to strike at the uprising and prevent it from achieving its objectives.

AL-BA'TH Cited on U.S. Elections, Peace

JN1011104288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Nov 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline 'Peace Cannot Come as a Gift,' the newspaper AL-BA'TH explains in its editorial today that the Israeli elections reaffirmed Israel's aggressive, racist nature. Therefore, it is ruled out to talk about new, effective international efforts regarding an international conference although the idea of such a conference is still the focus of international efforts as far as the forces which lead international detente are concerned.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Given this election outcome, what can the United States offer to the cause of peace in the region after Vice President George Bush won the U.S. presidential elections? The paper adds: Today, just as was the case in all previous eras and phases, there will be no grants or gifts to Arabs. Likewise, advice and wishes will not succeed in changing the material policy existing on the ground. Moreover, there will be no negotiations for a just, comprehensive peace unless the balance in the region supports this approach.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Hence, the slogan raised by Leader Hafiz al-Asad on the establishment of strategic parity with Israel gains more importance these days. Unless supported by sufficient power and a solid will, peace will remain mere hopes and a talk discussed at international fora. Moreover, if the weapon of power, supremacy, and military arrogance is not removed from the Israeli enemy's hand, then all world advice will be useless. This is because slogans, concessions, and the acceptance of negotiations will be insufficient to hold an international conference which may achieve a just peace or regain an inch of land or any rights.

The truth which Arabs should always take into account is that peace will not be brought as a gift from anyone no matter how long they may wait. Just like freedom and independence, peace is extricated by struggle and imposed by sacrifice.

Commentary on Need for International Conference

JN0711155388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[text] The success of the Likud and extremist, fascist, and racist groups in the Israeli parliamentary elections poses a major question to the region and the international community: Where is the Middle East heading in the near future? This is a legitimate question. All international activity has centered on the establishment of peace in the region by convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. The idea of the conference has been again vigorously proposed within the framework of international detente and as part of an attempt to find solutions to regional disputes. The United States also talked about the international conference, although its talk was coupled with preconditions negating the implications of the conference sought by the United Nations.

The international conference is needed to arrive at a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute to bring about peace. From the beginning, the Arabs accepted the idea of an effective, empowered international conference. If it had been up to the Arabs, the international conference would have been convened long ago and would have produced the desired results because all the Arab sides

accept the UN resolutions and actually want the establishment of a just and lasting peace through an overall settlement based on the principles of the UN Charter and its resolutions related to the Palestine question and the Middle East dispute.

But the conference and its results depend on both parties to the dispute rather than one side. Now, Israeli forces that completely reject the idea of the international conference are assuming power amid hysterical racist war calls. Will this help in convening the international conference, and will this make the call for the conference realistic and meaningful?

Shamir and his followers categorically reject the idea of the conference. Moreover, they also persistently and stubbornly reject the two main pillars of just peace, namely the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as well as the Palestinian Arab people's firm legitimate rights. They also declare that the policy of geographically and demographically changing the nature of the occupied territories will actively resume immediately after the new Israeli government is formed. New Jewish settlements will be set up in the occupied Arab territories, and more severe repressive measures will be taken to confront the popular uprising against the occupation.

This position is a clear and honest expression of the essence of the Zionist policy pursued by the Israeli rulers, the Likud and the Alignment. This policy does not at all meet the requirements of the just and overall peace. The question that poses itself is: Is there andy side that can get the Israeli rulers to abandon their positions? Some people pin hopes on the United States. But does the United States want to use its capability in Israel to change Israel's policy? U.S. Secretary of Defense Carlucci's statements in Israel do not suggest this at all. There he stressed the continuation of the U.S. military aid to Israel despite the level of armament there.

Moreover, he put forward a dangerous theory that Israel's strength will help in continuing the peace process, although the world knows that Isrsael's military power has been behind the wars in the region and has been and continues to be the obstacle to a just peace. International pressures inside and outside the United Nations have proved useless because since Isrsael's aggressive war in 1967 they have not been able to persuade Israel's rulers to accept the principles of the UN Charter and its resolutions.

It is true that international detente insists on the need to settle the region's disputes, and it may propose it vigorously in the near future. But this should not distract the Arabs' attention from the material factors on the ground and the dangers implied in retreating before the enemy, making more and more concessions, and abandoning their special responsibility for their pan-Arab cause. Speeches, sermons, and flattering peace cannot upset the balance of power, repulse agression, recover 1 inch of the occupied territories, and restore one of the usurped Arab rights.

The Arabs' desire for a just peace is true and real. But desire alone cannot lead to peace. Certain situations should be created on the ground to help find suitable circumstances for talking about a just peace. Such situations will also help international efforts to convene an international conference and reach a comprehensive settlement and a just peace. The first condition for creating these situations depends on the pan-Arabism of the battle and the adherence in letter and spirit to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences.

This in turn requires using all the Arab energies and capabilities in the pan-Arab battle and refusing to be drawn into the wilderness of political maneuvers and hostile ambushes, which offer mirages for those panting after a settlement at any price.

The assumption of power in Israel by those who call for wars, regional expansion, racial discrimination, and an Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates constitutes a challenge to all the Arabs. Therefore, the Arabs should find a suitable reply.

Afghanistan

U.S. Charge Summoned To Receive 'Strong' Protest

LD0911172388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 88

[text] A source at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affirs reports that the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, where a strong protest from the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him.

According to international news agencies, Mr. Charles Redman has said that U.S. President Reagan, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and other U.S. officials plan to meet with Burhanuddin Rabbani, a leader of the Afghan armed extremist groups.

According to recent reports, the meetings have already started. These events cause justifiable concern and dismay to the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan. This act, by a country which is a signatory and guarantor to the Geneva accords, can only be termed a violation of the Geneva accords. This was a measure taken in order to prolong the war in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly was approved unanimously. All parties were asked to observe fully and comprehensively the Geneva accords for resolving of the situation around the Republic of Afghanistan, which has taken constructive and practical steps in this regard. This act by the United States contravenes the obligations and role of a signatory to the Geneva accords.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed its strong protest to the Government of the United States for its irresponsible act. It strongly demands that the United States authorities refrain from such acts and provocations, so that it does not endanger the process of implementing the Geneva accords, which are a strong foundation for ensuring peace, halting the war and bloodshed, and removing tension in the region.

Further on Release of FRG Citizens in Kabul

LD0911173888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In accordance with the amnesty decree of Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, two FRG citizens—Benno Splieth and Lea Hackstedt—were released today.

These two men, who illegally entered Afghanistan with the assistance of the extremist and counterrevolutionary groups, were arrested by the country's security forces in Ghazni Province 9 October 1988.

In his recent message addressed to Esteemed President Najibullah, His Excellency FRG Chancellor Richard von Weizaecker requested the release of these two persons. They were handed over to His Excellency (Erad Neitland), charge d'affaires of the FRG Embassy, in Kabul at 1140 today by the head of Consulate Affairs of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

The charge d'affaires of the FRG Embassy, on behalf of his country, expressed thanks and gratitude for the esteemed Afghan president's positive response to the FRG chancellor's request.

Pakistani Charge Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD0911185888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned at 1700 today to the Foreign Ministry, where the deputy of the First Political Department convey to him the following points:

As was reported to the Pakistani authorities 3 November 1988, the Pakistani militia, Armed Forces, and security forces launched a number of attacks in the area of Towr Kham under the guise of the so-called Afghan mujahidin. They set ablaze security posts, a military garrison, and the area passport, visa, and customs offices, causing loss of life and material damage. The Afghan Government lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani authorities over these savage attacks by the Pakistani Armed Forces and warned that the grave consequences of the continuation of such incidents would rest with Pakistan.

However, not only have the Pakistani authorities continued these shameful attacks, which are contrary to international norms, but they have intensified them. According to the security forces, 1,200 Pakistani militia forces dressed in local costumes embarked on a series of terrorist acts 7 November 1988, across Towr Kham in the Hazar Now area in (Shinwar) major district. The Afghan Government expresses its strongest protest against these hostile acts, which are contrary to the Geneva accords.

The Afghan Government once again warns that the Afghan Armed Forces are capable of defending the country's territorial integrity and independence and will no longer allow this situation to continue. Should there be any repetition of such attacks, the responsibility for the grave consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

UN Mission Receives 117th Protest Note

LD0911225388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office that the 117th note of the Republic

of Afghanistan concerning eight cases of open violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP office this afternoon in Kabul.

This note states that Pakistan, by sending various weapons and terrorists to the country, increasingly intensifies the war and fratricide in Afghanistan. The note asks the UN office to investigate these violations in accordance with Paragraph 7, Article [number indistinct], Document No 4 of the Geneva accords, and to inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative about the results of this investigation.

Najibullah Meets With Estalef Elders, Residents
LD0511223888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpt] This morning Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received elders and residents from Estalef Subdistrict, Qarah Bagh District, Kabul Province at the Presidency Headquarters and briefed them on the national reconciliation policy.

The esteemed president, addressing Estalef's elders and representatives, said: The country's present situation requires serious and urgent concentration on the most fundamental issue; that is, to ensure security and tranquillity. Today every compatriot has a duty to strive for the important national goals of peace and compromise and an end to this fratricidal war.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The national compromise policy has created favorable conditions for our people to unite and work for their common desire for stability and a permanent peace. [passage omitted]

Kabul Notes Clashes With 'Extremists'
LD0911193388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] As a result of crushing blows by the country's Armed Forces, 109 extremists, supported by the United States and Pakistan, were crushed in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Vardak, Konduz, Badakhshan, Paktia, and Zabol Provinces. Some 64 of the extremists were injured and 32 were arrested by the country's Armed Forces.

According to a report from Nangarhar Province, blows were inflicted on the extremists by the Armed Forces and 10 extremists were crushed and 1 was injured in the surroundings of Nangarhar Province.

As a result of an operation by the Armed Forces eight extremists were killed in the region of Towr Kotal. Several rocket launchers and four enemy hideouts were also destroyed.

Twenty extremists were killed when the Armed Forces inflicted continuous blows in the surroundings of Qandahar Province. One rocket launcher, three heavy weapons, two motorcycles, and a tractor loaded with weapons and ammunition belonging to the enemy were also destroyed.

As a result of mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces carried out in the surroundings of Vardak Province, four extremists were crushed and one man was injured.

As a result of a mopping-up operation by the Armed Forces 15 extremists were crushed in (Oran) region, Konduz Province, another were seriously injured. Thirty men were arrested and five weapons were destroyed.

As a result of a mopping up operation by the Armed Forces carried out in (?Hasas) village, attached to Feyzabad city, Badakhshan Province, four extremists were crushed and another seven were arrested. Four heavy weapons, 30 boxes of ammunition, 2 communication sets, and 4 hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report from Paktia Province, as a result of blows by the Armed Forces in Zarmal District and in the surroundings of Gardeyz city, Paktia Province, 35 men attached to the extremist groups were killed and 45 were injured. Two heavy weapons and a communication set were destroyed.

As a result of blows by the Armed Forces carried out in the surroundings of Shurakay and [placename indistinct] regions, Zabol Province, 10 extremists were crushed and another 5 were injured. One ZK-1 and two motor vehicles were destroyed.

Another report form Konduz Province says the Armed Forces carried out an operation today in (Angur Bagh) and (?Ortoblaqi) villages attached to Konduz city, six extremists were killed and four were arrested.

Armed clashes took place in the surroundings of Kapisa Province between extremists attached to the Gulbuddin and Rabbani bands. As a result, 14 extremists were killed and 8 were seriously injured.

In another armed clash in Bazi Kheyl village, Paktia Province, between the Gulbuddin and Sayaf groups, eight extremists attached to the Sayaf group were killed. Three rocket launchers and 23 various weapons were taken away by the members of Gulbuddin group.

According to another report, two motor vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition belonging to the Gulbuddin band were blown up by mines planted by the Sayaf band in Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province.

Mujahidin Capture Several Military Posts

BK0911143888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have reportedly captured or destroyed several Kabul regime military posts, causing heavy loss of lives and property. On Saturday [5 November], the mujahidin captured military posts at (Usharkana) and (Shiqa-e Talab) in Nangarhar Province. They also captured several posts in (Jamhuriya Soletan), including three posts near Baghlan city, and killed several Kabul troops. Five Kabul soldiers joined mujahidin along with their tank and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The mujahidin also overran military posts in (Haji Nawab) area of Baghlan Province and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In an attack on (Pasawarand) Airport in Ghowr Province, the mujahidin destroyed an aircraft, and in an attack on a military convoy in Parvan Province, they damaged three tanks and two vehicles. Thirteen Kabul soldiers were killed and two military trucks loaded with equipment were seized.

Mujahidin Occupy Militia HQ Near Qandahar

BK1011023988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports the Afghan mujahidin have occupied the militia headquarters of the Kabul regime just south of Qandahar after a long drawn-out battle. Kabul regime troops at the Chahar Vina base have laid down their arms. The base has strategic value as it lies near the crossroads which links Qandahar with Western Herat, situated on the Iranian border. The mujahidin arrested many Kabul troops and captured a number of artillery guns and a tank.

According to reports the Afghan mujahidin have also taken control of an important irrigation project in (Bandesa) base in Gazni Province.

Bangladesh

Security Tight in Dhaka for Opposition Protests

BK1011084188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 10 Nov 88

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 10 (AFP)—Police clamped a tight security net on the capital as the opposition began protests Thursday to mark the first anniversary of a "Dhaka siege" which failed to unseat President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Opposition activists carrying banners and posters and shouting anti-government slogans marched to downtown areas where several protest rallies and processions were planned, witnesses said.

Armed police and riot squads had taken up positions in key areas of the downtown Gulistan and Purana Paltan Districts early in the day, they said.

There was no immediate report of clashes, police sources said, adding that the security measures were merely a "precautionary routine" against possible violence.

The Dhaka siege, launched by the country's major opposition groups in an unprecedented show of unity, sparked three weeks of violence that left up to 12 people dead, hundreds injured and thousands including top politicians arrested.

Mr. Ershad, ignoring calls for his resignation, dissolved Parliament, proclaimed a 120-day state of emergency and announced fresh elections March 3 in an eventually successful move to quell the unrest.

Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which heads a seven-party centre-right alliance, was to address a downtown rally Thursday.

Informed sources said Begum Zia, widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, may call for a revival of the campaign against Mr. Ershad, who toppled a BNP-led civilian government in a 1982 bloodless coup.

Protest rallies were also planned late Thursday by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League-dominated eight-party alliance, the left-wing five-party group of Nirmal Sen and the fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami Party of Abbas Ali Khan.

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangladesh's founder-President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was assassinated in a 1975 coup, was expected to address the rally of her centre-left alliance, which includes the pro-Moscow Communist Party.

The major opposition parties united for the first time to launch last year's siege aimed at forcing Mr. Ershad to resign and transfer power to a caretaker government so that free and fair elections could be held.

Prospects of reviving this unity and the anti-Ershad campaign were uncertain, analysts said.

The 58-year old president is firmly in power while the opposition, increasingly wracked by internal differences, has seen its activities dampened by this year's disastrous monsoon floods, the analysts said.

Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina have in recent weeks publicly accused each other for the failure of the Dhaka siege movement and ruled out any possibility of unity in future anti-government campaigns.

Nirmal Sen and Jamiat leaders have accused both the BNP and Awami League of reviving old political rivalries and setting back the opposition movement.

Mr. Ershad Tuesday held a meeting of top officials of his ruling Jatiya Party and discussed measures "to strengthen activities of the party."

The president flew to the southeastern hill district of Banderban Thursday on a day's visit, sources at the President's Secretariat said.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Sacked

BK0911075888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Anwar Hussain, has been sacked on charges of negligence of duty.

A government announcement in Dhaka said the services of Dr Hussain have been terminated with immediate effect for being absent in the last day of the annual conference of International Atomic Energy Agency held in Vienna recently. His absence during a voting to condemn Israel for manufacturing nuclear weapons had created misunderstanding among friendly countries.

India

Gandhi, President Congratulate Bush on Victory

BK1011032688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, have joined the several world leaders in congratulating Mr Bush on his victory. In his message, Mr Venkataraman hoped that in the coming years the two countries will draw on the many common traditions and perceptions which they share to further enrich their relationship.

Mr Gandhi in his message hoped that India and the U.S. will work closely together in adding new dimensions and giving greater content to their relationship.

Gandhi Sends Condolences on PRC Earthquake

BK1011134388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today sent a message to the Chinese premier, Mr Li Peng, offering sympathies over Sunday's severe earthquake in southwestern China. Mr Gandhi said he is deeply distressed to learn of the tragic loss of life and widespread damage caused by the earthquake. At least 940 people lost their lives in the disaster. So far, 689 bodies have been recovered in the worst affected Yunnan Province.

Spokesman Says Gorbachev To Visit 18-20 Nov

BK1011125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, will pay a 3-day official visit to New Delhi from the 18th of this month. He will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation, which includes the foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze; the deputy prime minister, Mr Zakharov; the minister of culture, Mr Mishanov; the deputy foreign minister, Mr Rogachev; and several heads of cultural organizations.

Announcing the visit in New Delhi this evening, an official spokesman said that Mr Gorbachev will have four rounds of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The two leaders will touch upon all aspects of bilateral relations besides discussing matters of regional concern. Issues of global importance in which the two countries play an active part will also figure at their deliberations.

The Soviet leader will be meeting the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma. Other highlights of the visit are presentation of Indira Gandhi International Award for Peace and Disarmament to Mr Gorbachev, signing of various documents, and the closing function of the year-long Soviet festival in India.

Gandhi Denies Reports of Swiss Bank Account

BK1011064688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister has categorically stated that he has no bank account in Switzerland or any other foreign country. He was speaking to newsmen this morning during a brief stopover at Bangalore airport on his way to Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu. Mr Gandhi said he has nothing to do with some documents published in some papers and bank accounts mentioned by the former union minister, Mr V.P. Singh.

In reply to a question, Mr Gandhi said elections in Tamil Nadu are far off and he is going there to see some places. [passage omitted]

The Karnataka governor, Mr Venkat Subaya; the chief minister, Mr Bommai, his cabinet colleagues; and leaders of the opposition in the Karnataka legislature received the prime minister at the airport and saw him off.

Paper Sees 'Pakistani Plot' in Kashmir Situation

BK0911101588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 88 p 13

[Editorial: "Trouble in Kashmir"]

[Text] It comes as a shock that in the 41st year of independence a section of the population of Kashmir is bent upon questioning the accession of the State to the

Indian Union. For the first time in 41 years a bundh [strike] was observed against the accession. In the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the anniversary of the accession is observed as a "protest day". Why is it that history is being distorted by the anti-national elements in the State? History cannot be wiped out by them. The circumstances that brought about Kashmir's integration into India are part of history.

The battles which India fought in the United Nations in support of its cause are memorable. Ever since the State became an integral part of the country, the right attitude of the people should have been to forget the unpleasantness, if any, and strive for a national approach. Leaders like Sheikh Abdullah acted in the right direction, and fortunately, his son, the present Chief Minister, Mr Farooq Abdullah, is following the same path. He is trying his best to check the anti-national elements although his efforts have not succeeded.

Why is it that some political organisations and some people are reluctant to face the facts of life? Sheikh Abdullah had made it clear that Mulsim identity and economic interests would be safer to maintain in India. In order to confirm his stand, he secured special status for Kashmir, constitutionally guaranteed by India. But over the years, the pro-Pakistani elements, particularly the Muslim fundamentalists have opposed the State's accession to India. From the latest developments it is clear that these elements continue to be active and they are getting ample support from Pakistan.

Otherwise, they would not have dared to observe a protest day against accession and unleash violence in the valley. About 40 people were injured in bomb blasts on Tuesday. Unless the Government takes firm measures against the mischief-makers, things are bound to go from bad to worse. The Chief Minister himself has gone on record that Indian intelligence agencies would have to redouble their efforts in view of the Pakistani plot in Jammu and Kashmir. He has also spoken about the arms and trained personnel entering the valley from Pakistan.

Though the anti-national militants need to be firmly dealt with, the ultimate solution to the problem lies in bringing the people of Kashmir to the mainstream. The National Conference-Congress-I Government has a major role to play in this respect.

First of all, the coalition government should remain united and tackle the problems of the State in such a way that there is little scope for the anti-national elements to exploit the problems of the people.

Secondly, the campaign against the anti-national elements should be intensified. The mistaken notion that the Kashmiri Muslim stands to gain by looking up to Pakistan for help should be removed from the minds of the people. In any case the current trouble must be tackled with a firm hand.

Iran

USSR's Bessmertnykh Arrives for Talks

LD1011142488 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation and was greeted at Mehrabad Airport by deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Bessmertnykh is scheduled to exchange views with high ranking Iranian officials on mutual ties and international and regional issues, during his three day visit. The first round of talks between Bessmertnykh and Larijani is to start this evening.

Discusses Reasons for Visit

LD1011164588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Tehran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart. Upon his arrival in Tehran, he discussed the reasons for his visit, and said:

During this trip regional issues of interest to both countries, as well as the international situation will be discussed. Continuing his remarks, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister said that there have been many discussions in Moscow and Tehran about the bases of bilateral relations. Now the time has come to start discussions between the two countries about these relations.

Mr Larijani, the deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of European and U.S. affairs, in an interview expressed his hope that during this trip the issues of interest to the two countries, both regarding bilateral relations and regional and international issues, will be discussed.

Velayati Comments on Bush Election

LD1011094988 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 19, IRNA—The United States continues to pursue a hostile policy towards Iran nearly ten years after the Islamic revolution that toppled the pro-American shah, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

"After the victory of the Islamic revolution, American policy towards Iran became hostile. Today it is still the American policy."

The Iranian foreign minister was asked to comment to IRNA on the election of Vice-President George Bush as President in Tuesday's U.S. election.

The downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. Navy and the continuing blockade of Iranian assets are prominent examples of Washington's attitude towards Iran, he said.

"The lastest example of this was the criminal downing of our passenger plane for which the Americans haven't even apologized."

An American battle ship in the Persian Gulf destroyed an Iran air plane with 290 civilians on board on July 3. Despite the ship's most sophisticated radar equipment the United States claimed the plane was "mistaken" as an Iranian jet fighter.

Bush represented the Reagan administration to defend the action in a U.N. Security Council debate on the [words indistinct].

"There is also the issue of our assets worth billions of dollars which America refuses to hand over, despite the fact that they accept they are holding what belongs to us," he said.

The Carter administration broke off diplomatic relations with Iran several months after the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran by revolutionary students in November 1979. Secret documents were seized showing persistent U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs.

Commentary on Election Results

LD0911132288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Station commentary: "The Republican Victory in the U.S. Presidential Election"]

[Excerpts] Only few hours after the polls closed, Democratic Party candidate Michael Dukakis conceded defeat at a gathering of party supporters. He offered congratulations to his rival, George Bush, of the Republican Party.

At the time Dukakis announced this, the result of only half the votes cast had been announced, but Mr Dukakis' speech conceding defeat is considered the formal announcement of the election outcome. Simultaneous with the presidential election, elections were held for 438 members of the House of Representatives and 33 members of the Senate. Mr Dukakis promised his supporters victory for Democratic candidates in the congressional elections.

According to the U.S. Constitution, Reagan will continue his task as President for a period of less than 2 months. At the beginning of 1989, he will leave the arena in favor of George Bush, the new president. In the wake of electing a new U.S. president, the file of Reagan's term of office closes and the file of the person elected as the country's highest executive figure opens in the U.S. ruling circles.

Toward the end of Reagan's presidency, the Democratic and Republican Parties, by using very sophisticated equipment and propaganda technology, covered the 50 states with their publicity campaign. The hue and cry of the propaganda campaign intensified after the announcement of Dukakis' and Bush's names as the candidates of their parties. [passage omitted]

In light of the election of a new U.S. President and in light of the U.S. role in the world's political, economic, and military affairs, the question now arises: Which of the two parties is more worthy of holding this position? The answer to this question requires a reply to another question: Who really rules the United States and can the election of a certain candidate, who is supported by the minority that controls the wealth and power, be indicative of the true choice of Americans?

It is quite clear that the outlook of the First World—the industrial countries of the Western bloc—and of the Second World—that is, the USSR and the Eastern bloc—basically differ from that of the Third World countries on the policies of these two parties. In the opinion of the Western countries and the Eastern bloc some policies of the two parties in the areas of the nuclear arms race, the economy, and politics might differ, but in the opinion of the Third World countries, neither of the two parties' policies differs from the other in light of their agreement on continued U.S. domination in the world.

The history of the past decades demonstrates that irrespective of the Democratic or Republican Party affiliation of U.S. Presidents, the real rulers of that country in the confrontation against crises arising from U.S. hegemony always have pursued the policy of suppression and plunder with regard to Third World countries.

Diplomatic Ties With UK To Resume 'Today'

LD1011092288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from London that at the end of their 9-hour session in Vienna, Iranian and British Foreign Ministry delegations early this morning announced the first steps toward normalization of full diplomatic relations between the two countries with a signed statement and a memorandum of understanding. The statement, signed at the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission in Vienna, announces that starting today the two countries will resume full diplomatic relations based on the principle of noninterference in each other's internal affairs, mutual respect, and equality.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD1011111088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the normalization of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain.

In His exalted name. The governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations as soon as possible, based on equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's affairs.

The Central News Unit reports that last night, the heads of the two negotiating delegations, meeting at the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission in Vienna, signed a memorandum of understanding. This is the result of prolonged negotiations between the two countries, including two rounds of talks lasting several days in Geneva, the New York meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers, and seven meetings between the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires in London and British officials.

The memorandum of understanding notes that Britain's charge d'affaires will be sent to Tehran within 1 month, and the two sides will exchange ambassadors within 6 months. In the course of the prolonged negotiations between Iran and Britain, the Iranian negotiating delegation described aits positions to British officials and explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's sensitivities regarding the improvement of relations with Britain, in particular the principle of noninterference in Iran's internal affairs.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY Cited on War

LD0911175888 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 9, IRNA—Iraq's war against Iran was the first time in history that capital cities have been systematically hit with missiles, a military review of the conflict has reported.

Besides the Baghdad regime's use of outlawed poison and nerve gases, Iraq's "war of the cities" and introduction of long-range missiles aimed at Iran's civilian populations was the "most disturbing military development" and leaves a "dangerous legacy," it said.

In a review of Iraq's 8-year war, JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY said that its conduct provided ominous lessons and demonstrated that despite the U.S. intervention against Iran, the superpowers can "neither prevent nor stop regional conflicts."

It showed that a nation like Iran with "innovative tactics, highly motivated forces and a capacity for large-scale human sacrifice" yet critically short of advanced weaponry can hold off an enemy with vast superior firepower.

The magazine review said Iraq despite its powerful Soviet and French supplied air force made military blunders in targetting its attacks. Even outnumbering Iran in the air by as much as 8 to 1, the Baghdad regime never succeeded in inflicting any lasting strategic damage, while Iran proved to be "amazingly resilient" and in attacks on economic targets either quickly repaired damage or employed innovative measures to ensure continued flow of oil.

For Tehran, its denial of access to advanced weaponry systems cost it a "clear-cut victory," it said.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY assessed that it was Iraq's belief in its advanced firepower that dulled both its army's tactical capabilties and its ability to contain large-scale infiltrations and caused it to "backfire" on the Baghdad regime in many ways.

While Iran was adapting operations in marshes and mountains and developing skills in amphibious warfare, as epitomised by the capture of Al-Faw in 1986, the Iraqis only "stuck to their text book defensive philosophy," it said.

"The Iranians repeatedly proved that even though they lacked the firepower and air strength, they could gain ground with imaginative tactics and hold off the enemy."

Saudi King Favors Good Relations in Region

LD1011115588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] King Fahd, in an interview with the Kuwaiti press, remarked that his country favors maintaining good relations with the countries of the region. He said: We would like to regard Iran as a model for Islam. We believe that as an Islamic country Iran holds a strong position in the region.

Fahd reiterated that the Arabian government's propaganda campaign against Iran has been halted and remarked: So far no contacts have been made between Iran and Arabia.

Besharati Meets With Qatari Officials

LD0911200188 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati held separate talks with the amir, heir-apparent, and minister of state for Foreign Affairs of Qatar in Doha Wednesday.

Besharati and Qatar's Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani conferred about Iran-Iraq Geneva peace talks, the necessity of cooperation among all peace-loving countries for a lasting peace in the region, oil prices, and mutual ties.

In the meeting, Shaykh Khalifah expressed concern over the existing oil prices and said that there should be a closer cooperation among Persian Gulf states.

Besharati also discussed with Qatari Heir-Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani about regional developments and Iran-Iraq peace talks.

In another development, Besharati and Qatari state minister for foreign affairs talked about the expansion of mutual ties.

Iran's first deputy foreign minister has already visited Oman, UAE and Kuwait. He is to leave for Bahrain after visiting Qatar.

French Envoy Meets With Agriculture Minister

LD0911142588 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—French Ambassador Christian Graeff in a meeting with Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari Wednesday announced France's readiness for agricultural cooperation with Iran.

Graeff said he was seeking to expand not only bilateral political ties but also economic, cultural and trade cooperation between the two countries. He said two French technical and economic delegations would soon visit Tehran.

Kalantari, welcoming the prospect of extensive agricultural cooperation in the wake of France's experiences in this field, expressed hope that Tehran-Paris ties would further expand in various other fields.

Montazeri Meets With Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD0911173088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Al-Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the militant clergy of Lebanon, yesterday met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In this meeting, issues related to the Islamic movement in Lebanon were discussed. The struggles of the Muslims in the region and existing problems were also discussed.

Kenyan President To Visit Tehran 15 Nov

LD0911173488 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi is to pay a four-day official visit to the Islamic Republic starting November 15, at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, announced the Presidential Office here today. A high level political and economic delegation will accompany the Kenyan president in his visit to Iran.

POW Exchange With Iraq Proposed for 20 Nov

LD0911131188 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 9, IRNA—A limited number of war prisoners in Iran and Iraq will be released and repatriated later this month following an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The ICRC proposed the date of November 20th for the repatriation of the sick and disabled POWS. We did not object," said Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Morteza Sarmadi.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz also confirmed the said date after meeting U.N. special representative for the peace talks Jan Eliasson.

Officials at the ICRC were not available for comment. Earlier they had said negotiations were continuing and an announcement would be made after concrete results had been reached.

There are over 1,500 ill and injured prisoners of war registered by the Red Cross in Iran and Iraq. Nearly two thirds of them are Iraqi captives in Iran.

Last night Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Veleyati said Iran was ready to go ahead with the repatriation of Iraqi sick and wounded POWS unilaterally.

"On the basis of agreement between us and the ICRC, we can do it from tomorrow. There is no problem," he added.

Iranian and Iraqi officials have been meeting almost daily with Red Cross officials. The head of Iran's POW Committee Ayatollah Mohajerani held talks at the ICRC Headquarters this morning.

"The Red Cross is pla[illegible]g it (sick POWS exchange), for November 20th," Iraq[illegible] foreign minister said after having separate talks with Eliasson. Dr Velayati will meet Eliasson this afternoon.

The exchange would be the first agreement between the two sides since they began their third round of peace talks on Oct. 31 but observers do not see it as a major breakthrough.

It is clearly evident that the Islamic Republic and Iraq are still widely divided over how to settle major issues such as withdrawal of troops from Iran, release of all POWS, and the clearing of the Arvand River.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the exchange would take during a period of three weeks by the end of which all unregistered sick and wounded POWS would be released as well.

"We hope to repatriate the registered sick and wounded POWS within days after the start of the operation and the rest by December 11, maximum," Morteza Sarmadi told IRNA.

The Red Cross would begin registering all other ill and injured prisoners to prepare them for repatriation by December 11, he added.

Iraq Eats 'Humble Pie' on Issue

LD0911183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Convinced that its obstinacy was holding no water, Ba'thist Iraq was forced to retract its statements and had to agree to Iran's humanitarian offer for swapping all sick and disabled POWS.

After days of big talk, the Iraqi foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz had to eat humble pie Wednesday following his meeting with president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva.

Tariq 'Aziz emerged from the meeting with Cornelio Sommaruga announcing acceptance of his Iranian counterpart's offer.

Islamic Iran's humanitarian gesture was set forth soon after the third round of the peace talks got underway in Geneva earlier this month. However, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati made it clear that only when U.N. Resolution 598 and the 4-point implementation plan of the secretary general is fully enforced, will all POWS be freed.

Velayati's move put the Iraqi authorities in an awkward situation. It drew the customary negative response from Baghdad which was trying to divert the trend of peace talks by making much ballyhoo of the POW issue instead of sticking to Resolution 598's sequence of articles.

It proved the hollowness of Iraqi claims. Humanitarian reasons were surely not the cause of Baghdad's opposition because it is clear to anyone with even a grain of humanity that the crippled and the sick should top any POW exchange plan. Unmasked, the Iraqi regime ran into world public pressure and with all avenues closed had no other option but to accept Iran's enlightened proposal.

Now is the turn of the United Nations and the ICRC to prove their credentials in view of the first positive development at Geneva.

As a first step, ICRC should force Iraq to register all Iranian POWS it has, for the figure of 19,000 Iranian POWS including the sick is an outdated one. One cannot talk about swapping the disabled until all POWS in Iraq are registered.

Since Ba'thist Iraq supposedly longs for a "stable and durable" peace with Islamic Iran, it should realize the futility of hampering talks and raising pre-conditions outside the resolution's framework.

Observers believe what Iraq experienced during the past eight years of its aggression should be a sufficient lesson for it.

The talks would not proceed unless the Iraqi regime comes to its senses and decides to work towards implementation of all articles of 598.

Iraq's registeration of about 53,000 Iranian captives would show how serious it is for achieving real peace.

It should once again be noted that a complete exchange of the disabled POWS would be meaningful only when ICRC is ready to carry out its task and make Iraq compile a complete list of Iranian captives.

Otherwise, according to the dictate of reason there are still many more sick captives amongst the over 30,000 Iranian POWS not registered by ICRC and Iraqi regime, yet.

Velayati on POW Exchange

LD0911180188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] We draw your attention to our first report, our exclusive interview with Foreign Minister Velayati on the exchange of sick and injured Iranian and Iraqi POW's:

[Unidentified correspondent] The sick and injured Iranian and Iraqi POW's will be exchanged beginning 20 November 1988. Foreign Minister Velayati made the announcement this afternoon in an exclusive interview with us. He added: Following Iran's proposal on exchanging sick and injured POW's, which was accepted by Iraq, the International Red Cross Committee set 20 November as the date for implementating this exchange. Dr Velayati emphasized: If Iraq had accepted the secretary general's proposal on the exchange of POW's at the beginning of the discussions upon the implementation of the cease-fire, then all the POW's from both sides would already have been exchanged.

He added: We have so far released about 800 Iraqi POW's on several occasions, but in most cases, the Iraqi regime has not responded practically to Iran's humanitarian action. Our foreign minister declared that the slowness of discussions is due to Iraqi obstructionism and the sensitive nature of the discussion, due to the need to achieve the rights of the Muslim Iranian nation and country.

He emphasized: In none of the areas under discussion will we back down from upholding the interests of the Iranian nation and we will not compromise our interests and principles.

The meeting between Foreign Minister Velayati and Jan Eliasson, the secretary general's special representative, is still in progress at the moment. The Iraqi foreign minister also met with Jan Eliasson this afternoon. The results of these two meetings, which were held separately, will be the topic of another report.

Formal Agreement To Be Signed

LD1011121488 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 10, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will sign a formal agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the exchange of ill and injured war prisoners with Iraq.

"We will sign a memorandum of understanding between us and the ICRC about the repatriation of wounded and sick POWS," Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said after meeting the ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga Thursday.

Iran and Iraq announced yesterday that they had agreed to free the prisoners starting November 20th. The registered ill and injured POWS number only 1,500 in Iran and Iraq though the actual number is believed to be a few thousands more.

The repatriation operation will start first with the release of the registered sick POWS. At the same time the registration of other injured POWS will begin to enable their repatriation by December 11, Iran has said.

The date of the operation has yet to be confirmed by the Red Cross but its officials have expressed optimism that it would go ahead this month.

There is still no agreement in sight on the repatriation of all other prisoners. Iran says priority should be given to the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran before full repatriation.

Velayati: Security Council Must Back UN Chief

LD0911194388 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 9, IRNA—Iran Wednesday repeated a call on the Security Council to back U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in his attempt to break the deadlock at the peace talks with Iraq.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iraq was still blocking progress at the talks by refusing to agree to a troop withdrawal.

"Of course they (the Security Council) should support the secretary general's efforts," he said following a meeting with U.N. Special Representative Jan Eliasson. He was responding to questions by reporters on whether Iran believed the Security Council's intervention was necessary to end the stalemate.

In an interview with IRNA Monday, the Iranian foreign minister said the Security Council and the secretary general should start a new initiative if they wished to see progress.

Meanwhile Dr Velayati formally announced Iran's acceptance of a plan by the International Red Cross Committee to start repatriating sick and wounded war prisoners in Iran and Iraq on 20 November. "I can tell you that we have accepted the suggestion of the ICRC on two points. They are planning for the total repatriation of sick and wounded POWS and also starting the notification of the others," he said.

He did not clarify whether he meant the notification of all war prisoners not notified by the Red Cross or only the sick and wounded who number a few thousand.

On his talks with Eliasson, Velayati again emphasized that Iraq's failure to accept the secretary general's four-point plan had prevented the slightest movement in the negotiations.

"We don't have any problem for progress. We agree with the four-point plan and it is the other side that is resisting."

Iraq's main objection has been to the withdrawal of troops to internationaly recognized borders. Its foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz Tuesday admitted that Iran was not holding any Iraqi territory and indirectly rejected Perez de Cuellar's plan, which gives priority to the withdrawal.

The Iranian foreign minister also reiterated that though the 1975 treaty has not been explicitly mentioned in the plan, it was compatible with it since the secretary general had confirmed its validity "several times" from the U.N.'s point of view.

Iranian and Iraqi delegations will hold their sixth plenary meeting under the auspices of the U.N. Thursday afternoon.

"We will continue the talks until Mr. Eliasson feels that we are at the end of this period" of negotiations, Velayati said.

Talks To End Friday; No 'Substantial Results'
LD1011190188 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 10, IRNA—Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq will meet for the last time Friday after nearly two weeks of peace negotiations which have apparently failed to produce substantial results.

"Tomorrow we will have the closing session in this period of talks," Iran's foreign minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said after Thursday's talks under U.N. mediation.

Kurdish Official Says Iraq Killing 'Hundreds'
LD0911174088 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 9, IRNA—Tens of thousands of Kurds fleeing Iraqi gas attacks are being held in concentration camps in Iraq and many are feared to have already been summarily executed.

Over 60,000 Kurds managed to reach Turkey in September following waves of Iraqi chemical attacks but the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) calculates that around 34,000 were seized by Baghdad's troops when trying to flee from their homeland in northern Iraq.

One KDP member interviewed by the London INDEPENDENT in Turkey Wednesday reported that many of the Kurdish men and women were split by Iraqi troops and the women taken to a concentration camp converted from an army barracks near Irbil, some 75 miles from the Turkish border.

He said that men were taken to the notorious Abu Ghurayb prison in Baghdad, where many had thought to have been already killed, and indicated that he himself was only able to escape by bribing his jailers.

Human rights groups worldwide, including London-based Amnesty International, have repeatedly reported Iraq exterminating hundreds of Kurdish civilians since accepting a ceasefire in its war with Iran in August but no one has previously been able to estimate the numbers involved or the location of the concentration camps.

The KDP fears thousands will be taken to death camps near the Saudi Arabian border for extermination and THE INDEPENDENT reported a "very peculiar disease" was spreading in the Kurdish prisons, which it suggested could be the result of a "kind of poisoning."

A Kurdish doctor in London revealed last month that the Iraqi regime had been using bacteriological weapons that was probably responsible for an unusual typhoid epidemic in the Iraqi Kurdish city of Al-Sulaymaniyah that the Baghdad regime has been trying to hush up.

The Kurds are said to be disillusioned by the failure of the West to respond to the horrors of Iraq using chemical weapons and remain skeptical that reports of further Iraqi atrocities will prompt any decisive action against the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

Plan To Clear Gulf of Mines, Pollution Offered
LD0811163488 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A plan to clear regional waters of mines and pollution will be offered to the Council of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Maritime Environment (ROMPE) for final approval within the next two months, said an Iranian official Tuesday.

Hadi Manafi, the deputy prime minister and head of the Environment Protection Organization (EPO), was talking at a press conference here on the outcome of the ROMPE emergency meet in Kuwait during Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

He said that Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq were elected members of the executive commitee of the 8-member ROMPE which also includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

According to opposition of Iran's delegation, the issue of the dredging of the Arvand River was deleted from the agenda of the ROMPE emergency meet, Manafi said.

The EPO head, commenting of the types of pollution in the region, said that Iraqi use of chemical weapons and its attacks on oil tankers and oil fields during the war worsened the regional pollution already caused by oil slicks and industrial wastes poured into it.

According to a ROMPE report, 545 oil tankers and cargo ships sunk and 112 other vessels collided with one another while trying to shift their course abruptly to escape attacks, during the nearly 8 years of war between Iran and Iraq.

Musavi Presents Plaque to Relief Committee
LD0911184688 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In presenting a plaque to the personnel of the imam's Relief Committee, the prime minister expressed his gratitude for their efforts through 8 years of sacred defense, particularly during the enemy's missile and air attacks.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Supreme Judical Council announced: By order of his eminence the imam, may his shadow continue, and with permission from Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, the sum of 500 million rials was placed at the disposal of the Qom Education Department. This sum

comes from assets which have no owners [belonging to Iranians who have fled the country] or whose owners are not known, and it is intended for school construction.

Musavi Delivers Speech on Reconstruction
LD0911220988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Mashhad]

[Excerpts] At noon today Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi arrived in Qa'en amid a warm welcome from the townspeople who greeted him by throwing saffron flowers along his route. Please listen to a report from one of our colleagues:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Continuing his visit to the southern towns of Khorasan Province, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi arrived in Qa'en from Ferdows at noon today, and was welcomed by the Friday imam [of Qa'en], the town's Majlis deputy, and local officials. Then amid the warm welcome of the Hezbollahi people of that town, the prime minister left for the grave of the martyrs of Qa'en and expressed his respect to the martyrs of the imposed war.

Mr Musavi gave a speech to a gathering of thousands of people in the Qa'en sports stadium. He said that the greatest achievement of the Islamic revolution is that our nation has gained political awareness and returned to Islam. He said: In a climate of freedom and independence our nation has at last found the opportunity to think and to grow, and a suitable climate has also been created for the potential of our youth to grow. The hopeful moves which we are witnessing in different parts of the country in scientific and research fields foreshadow a transformation in our country.

The prime minister continued: Of course, it is not possible to achieve success in this corrupt and evil world without struggling and enduring hardship. The superpowers will not leave us alone; they continue their conspiracies. However, we stand firm in the face of hardship, as we have in the course of our struggles over the past 10 years.

He added: The capable and able human resources—our country's greatest asset today—have been molded and formed during a storm of events and are still moving forward. They can bring prosperity to the country with their plans and can inaugurate an era of reconstruction without reliance upon the superpowers.

Mr Musavi called on the people to participate more fully in the reconstruction of the country and the elimination of deprivation. He said: His holiness the imam has repeatedly stressed the need for people to participate in the affairs of the country and to make use of our human resources. And by this the imam of the ummah is not referring to huge assets which are in the hands of a limited number of the people; he is referring to all our assets and to the need to create cooperatives in various parts of the country, so that the resources can be transferred from the wealthy and concentrated areas to the deprived areas.

In conclusion, the prime minister referred to the rich mineral deposits which exist in the south of Khorasan Province and reaffirmed the government's special commitment to create the methods needed to utilize these assets, including the construction of roads and the connection of this area to the country's ports. [passage omitted] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the ministers of mines and minerals and Construction Jihad, who were accompanying him, at the end of their 2-day trip to Khorasan Province, left Birjand for Tehran this evening and were seen off by the governor general and a number of Majlis deputies. [end recording]

Tribes To Be Armed To Defend Homeland
LD0911233888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The supervisor of the the mobilization of the country's oppressed, in a radio and television interview on Tuesday in Zahedan, announced that during peacetime, the mobilization of the oppressed will also have an active role in the country and will continue its duties, which is to strengthen the country's fighting and defensive capabilities.

Continuing his remarks, he stressed the role of the country's tribes in safeguarding the revolution. He said that soon the arming of those groups of tribesmen who have not been yet armed by the mobilization of the oppressed will start in order to prepare them for defending the Islamic homeland.

Flag of Freedom Says Cabinet Change 'Imminent'
TA0811181088 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpts] In circles very close to the ruling regime, the issue of a cabinet change and the dismissal of Mir Hoseyn Musavi has again gained prominence. Everyone is talking about an imminent change in the cabinet.

Citing informed sources, our fellow strugglers have reported that as a last resort to prevent its downfall, the Islamic Republic regime intends to bring about broad changes in the government's upper echelons. [passage omitted]

It is being said in Tehran that in a letter to Ruhollah Khomeyni, several allied nationalist groups have called on him to dissolve the Third Majlis which came into being by the ballot-rigging of 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and to commission an interim, reputable, and respected

government to hold free elections with the participation of all political groups—in order to prevent rough clashes among different wings and groups and to create a conciliatory climate.

The rumor of dissolving the Majlis and changing the government has gained prominence at a time when the people want the Islamic Republic regime to call a referendum on its 10-year record, so that everyone will know whether the rule of the jurisconsult system has any legitimacy for existence.

It is worth noting that last month Eng Mehdi Bazargan, secretary general of the Iranian Freedom Movement, sent a letter to Khomeyni calling on him—if he wants to maintain the Islamic Republic system—to give the different political sides that accept the Islamic Republic's sovereignty permission to engage in political activity, participate in the elections, and become cabinet members should they win. Eng Bazargan wrote that it is clear the people's desire for a lawful and peaceful struggle aimed at changing the government's corrupt sides and at opening up the political atmosphere will actually and ultimately nullify the armed struggle and anti-regime plots.

Flag of Freedom Notes Gunfire in Qom

TA0811183088 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported that they heard intense gunfire in Qom a few nights ago and that a large number of both sides of the armed clash were killed or wounded. According to our fellow strugglers, the gunfire lasted several hours. The ambulance traffic in the neighborhood where the gunfire took place was so heavy that it is believed a large number of the two sides involved in this incident were killed.

As usual, the Islamic Republic regime has prevented the publication of this report. It is not yet clear how this incident occurred, or which wing of those opposed to the regime backed the group that fired at the pro-regime Guards.

Nepal

New Council of Ministers Announced 31 Oct

BK0911123188 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 1 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, Oct 31 (RSS)—His Majesty the King, at the recommendation of the prime minister, has in accordance with the Constitution of Nepal effected changes in the Council of Ministers constituted on 16 June 1986 under Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and allocated portfolios to the members of the Council of Ministers.

According to a communique issued here Monday by the Principal Press Secretariat of His Majesty the King the reshuffled Council of Ministers includes 14 ministers, 7 ministers of state and 12 assistant ministers.

The allocation of the portfolios to the members of the Council of Ministers is as follows:

Prime Minister	Marich Man Singh Shrestha
Ministers	
Foreign Affairs	Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya
Industry	Rabindra Nath Sharma
Water Resources	Hari Bahadur Basnyat
Housing and Physical Planning	Prakash Chandra Lohani
Education and Culture	Parashu Narayan Choudhary
Health	Mrs Sushila Thapa
Finance	Bharat Bahadur Pradhan
Tourism	Mohammad Mohsin
Panchayat and Local Development	Prakash Bahadur Singh
Agriculture	Krishna Charan Shrestha
Works and Transport	Dipak Bohara
Law and Justice	Badri Prasad Mandal
Labor and Social Welfare	Lilarai Bista
Defense and Royal Palace Affairs	Marich Man Singh Shrestha
Ministers of State	
Home	Niranjan Thapa
Land Reforms and Management	Jaya Prakash
General Administration	Jit Singh Khadka
Forest and Soil Conservation	Omkar Prasad Gauchan
Supplies	Nar Bahadur Budhathoki
Commerce	Sharat Singh Bhandari
Communications	Kamal Thapa
Assistant Ministers	
Agriculture (Livestock Development)	Ang Tsering Lama
Water Resources (Irrigation)	Keshav Kumar Budhathoki
Forest and Soil Conservation	Ganesh Prasad Bhatta
Agriculture (Horticulture)	Janak Bahadur Shah
Education (Primary Education)	Kshetra Pratap Adhikari
Works and Transport	Kshetra Bahadur Gurung
Housing (Physical Planning)	Dharmadatta Upadhyaya
Supplies	Tej Bikram Shah
Industry (Textiles)	Dharma Bahadur Gurung
Housing (Drinking Water)	Parashuram Khapung
Health (Basic Health)	Bimalman Singh
Panchayat and Local Development	Benup Raj Prasai

His Majesty the King has expressed the hope that the Council of Ministers will, as always, receive necessary cooperation from all in the tasks of promoting the wellbeing and prosperity of Nepal and Nepalese people, the communique says. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Court Rules Against Identity Cards for Voting

BK0811153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] A division bench of the Lahore High Court today gave its verdict on the writ petitions which had challenged the condition [set by the federal government] under which the production of an identity card has been made essential for the exercise of vote. The federal government has decided to file an appeal in the Supreme Court against this judgment.

In its verdict, the division bench has ruled that the voters will have the right to acquire ballot papers to cast votes after producing their identity cards; but if they do not possess identity cards, they can furnish any other proof of their identity which may satisfy the presiding officer. However, if any candidate or its agent raises any objection regarding the identity of any particular voter, a challenged ballot paper will be issued to that voter and if the voter is later found guilty of any irregularity, legal action will be taken against him.

The bench consisted of the chief justice, Justice A.S. Salam, and Justice Lehrasap Khan. The Federation of Pakistan was represented by Attorney General Aziz A. Munshi.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman stated in Islamabad that the federal government is preparing to file an appeal against this verdict in the Supreme Court. He said the People's Representation Act 1976 has been amended recently under which the production of identity cards has been made essential for the issue of ballot papers to voters. The sole aim of this condition is to check the possibility of bogus voting and to ensure the conduct of elections in a free and fair manner.

Jail, Fine for Fake Cards

BK0811163088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The president has issued an ordinance amending the National Registration Act 1973. Under the amended ordinance, persons possessing or using fake identity cards will be liable to punishment of up to 3 years in jail and a fine. Any person found guilty of tampering with identity cards or possessing fake identity cards or fabricating documents identical with identity cards for a fraudulent act or possessing such documents or using or attempting to use or change an identity card which has not been issued to that person for any purpose will be liable to this punishment. This will be in addition to punishments alloted under any other law.

Afghan Arms, Money Sent To Sabotage Elections

BK0911144988 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 31 Oct 88 pp 1, 7

[From unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Quetta, 30 October—A large quantity of arms and currency notes have been sent into Pakistan from Afghanistan to sabotage the upcoming general elections. According to reports from across the border, the Afghan secret agency, KHAD, has a plan made at the behest of a superpower for large-scale subversive activities on the occasion of elections in Pakistan. For this purpose, a large quantity of arms and currency notes were transported by two helicopters to the Pakistan-Afghan border and later smuggled into interior areas of Baluchistan with the help of certain elements.

According to Afghan mujahidin sources, the first consignment of arms and currency notes sent into Pakistan by KHAD for subversive activities contains hundreds of Kalashnikov rifles, more than 100 machineguns, pistols, and bullets, and currency notes worth millions of rupees. The Pakistani secret investigation agencies are allegedly conducting inquiries. Certain important and influential personalities are expected to be arrested soon in this connection.

Sri Lanka

Candidates Pay Deposits for Presidential Election

BK0911112088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Three candidates had paid deposits for the forthcoming presidential election. The deadline for payment of deposits was 1200 noon today.

The commissioner of elections, Chandrananda de Silva, told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the three candidates are: Prime Minister R. Premadasa of the United National Party, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and Ossie Abeygunasekera of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party.

Meanwhile, all arrangements have been finalized to receive nominations at Colombo Town Hall tomorrow. Nominations will be accepted between 0900 and 1100 [0330 and 0530 GMT].

The presidential election will be held on the 19th of next month.

Filing of Nominations Opens; Forces on Full Alert
BK1011030688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, filing of nominations for the presidential elections opens today. The elections are due on the 19th of next month. The authorities have placed the security forces on full alert in view of reports that antigovernment Sinhalese militants might try to disrupt the electoral process.

Antigovernment demonstrations and strikes by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Party] yesterday paralyzed transport and business activities in the island. The government has declared transport, fuel supply, port, and postal services as essential services and warned demonstrators that stringent action would be taken against them as protests have been banned under the emergency laws. Troops took up supplies of fuel oil while the Navy manned the harbor. Posters and leaflets distributed by the JVP yesterday announced that the agitation will continue.

Parliament Passes Bill on Citizenship Issue
BK0911160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Parliament today unanimously adopted a bill granting citizenship to all stateless persons of Indian origin. The cabinet had given its approval for the bill on the 12th of last month. The legislation will benefit about 3 and ½ lakh Tamils of Indian origin settled in the island republic.

Under the act Tamils will be entitled to all the rights and privileges which other citizens of Sri Lanka enjoy.

The rural industries development minister and president of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr S. Thondoman, has expressed happiness over the enactment of the new legislation.

Meanwhile, antigovernment demonstrations and strikes organized by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] entered its 3d day today paralyzing transport and business. The authorities have stepped up security in the capital—Colombo—and other towns. They also warned the demonstrators that most stringent action will be taken against them as protests have been banned under emergency.

Posters and leaflets distributed by the JVP proclaimed that the agitation will continue. The authorities said security forces have been placed on full alert to curb violence of the nomination day tomorrow for the presidential polls.

JVP militants are reported to have killed nine persons, including an Army officer, in separate incidents last night.

Military Steps In; General Strike Continues
BK0811155388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Sri Lankan defence forces moved in to assist the government as a militant-sponsored general strike entered its second day Tuesday [8 November], paralysing much of the troubled island nation.

The Sri Lankan Navy moved into Colombo's port, one of the biggest in the region, to protect port workers willing to work despite the three-day strike call by the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna, officials said.

Twenty-one ships were in the port, but only 8,000 of the dock's 20,000 workers had reported for work Tuesday, a defence spokesman said.

"The guys were too afraid to work. So we moved in the Navy," he said.

Air Force personnel began assisting in the distribution of fuel in Colombo as a serious fuel shortage hit the country, sending thousands of cars and vehicles off the roads after most petrol stations decided to close.

Bank workers, who picketed their offices Monday, and telecommunications employees were reported to have joined the protest, which also hit tourist resorts across the island's western and southern regions.

Reports reaching here said several tourists, mostly Europeans, had begun returning to Colombo as hotel employees in the area went on strike in response to the JVP call aimed at pressing the government to immediately resign.

"There is no danger to them," a hotel manager reached by telephone at southern Bentota town said. "It is just the inconvenience."

The JVP, which has organised five general strikes since last month, is campaigning for the resignation of President Junius Jayewardene's 11-year-old government which it opposes for signing a peace pact with India in July 1987.

Since the signing of the accord, which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign and under which India has some 49,000 troops in the island, the group has been blamed for more than 500 killings, mostly in southern districts.

Long queues could be seen at a handful of petrol stations still selling fuel here Tuesday.

A petroleum corporation official said Sri Lanka's only international airport at Katunayake, near here, had supplies to last only four or five days.

The military spokesman said there had been no violence so far Tuesday. The spokesman said 16 people had died in JVP-linked violence since Sunday.

In Colombo, several shops were open and doing brisk business but all government offices were shut Tuesday, a public holiday on the Hindu Festival of Lights (Diwali). Sri Lanka's minority Tamils are mostly Hindus. But there were fewer buses and scooter-taxis on the road, the main form of transport in the capital.

Only the Tamil-dominated Northern and Eastern Provinces appeared to be unaffected by the strike.

Police and troops patrolled key points in Colombo while security forces were on maximum alert all over the island after the government said Sunday that "subversives" were planning a wave of violence and mayhem.

Mr. Jayewardene, 82, faced with increasing political murders and repeated work stoppages, dubbed the strike sponsors "fascist forces" and urged the opposition to back him "in the present national crisis." [passage omitted]

'All Island Curfew' Imposed for 8-9 Nov

BK0811164588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1528 GMT 8 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—An all island curfew has been declared from 2300 hours (local time) today, 8th November, to 0400 hours (local time) tomorrow, 9th November.

In the districts of Kurunegala and Matale the curfew is from midnight today, 8th November, to 0400 hours (local time) tomorrow, 9th November.

In the districts of Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Ampara, Jaffna and Batticaloa the curfew will be in force from 1900 hours today 8th November, to 0500 hours (local time) tomorrow, 9th November.

Meanwhile, in the districts of Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu the curfew will be effective from 1800 hours today, 8th November to 0500 hours (local time) tomorrow, 9th November.

Authorities Issue 'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders

BK0911031888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, troops were called in to run the essential services as the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Party] sponsored strike disrupted normal life for the 2d day yesterday.

The Navy moved into the Colombo port after nearly 12,000 workers struck work. As the strike hit most of Sri Lanka, barring the northern and eastern provinces, the government asked the tourists intending to visit the island and those in the country to review their travel plans.

The authorities also issued shoot-at-sight orders under the emergency regulations. An official communique in Colombo said this has been done in view of the attempts being made by some subversive groups to disrupt normal life, particularly during the filing of nominations tomorrow for the presidential poll. The night curfew, which had been continuing for several days, was again imposed last night.

Meanwhile, the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] has apprehended two LTTE hard-core militants in Batticaloa sector in the Eastern Province. The PKF also arrested 15 suspected militants from other areas.

No Indian Troops at Ratmalana Airbase

BK1011105488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1020 GMT 10 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian military aircraft which transported Indian commandos to the Maldives to foil last week's attempted coup against the government of President Gayoom on their return to India 3 days ago were afforded refuelling facilities at the Ratmalana airport in the outskirts of Colombo. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that there was absolutely no truth in the rumors being spread by interested parties that there were Indian troops at the Ratmalana airport.